

Coming January 1, 2000
The new state DP registry begins; here's how to apply.
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Where news and art collide
Musical combines real-life AIDS experiment and drug company greed.
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Get cracking!
The audience participates in 'Dance-Along Nutcracker.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 48 • 2 December 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

Gay Oakland couple found dead in home

by Ed Walsh

Francisco Espana-Noyola, 39, was affectionately known by his Oakland neighbors for being "flamboyantly gay." One neighbor fondly described him dressing up for Halloween in a white taffeta gown and high heels. Another recalled with a laugh a display of pink flamingos he set up on his front lawn. Espana-Noyola's partner, John Lothammer, 62, had taught school and lived in his small home along quiet Richmond Boulevard, near the Broadway-MacArthur shopping center for at least 19 years. Neighbors say he lived with Espana-Noyola there for the past five to seven years. Both men were found dead Saturday night, November 27. Homicide investigators don't yet know whether it was a case of murder-suicide or double suicide.

Police were called to the home around 6:30 p.m. by Lothammer's twin brother who was concerned because he hadn't heard from Lothammer for three days. Inside the home, police found the couple's bodies. Homicide investigators say Espana-Noyola hanged himself. Lothammer's body was found in the same room. He had blood on his face but Oakland police say there was no indication he had been hit by anyone. Prescription drugs were found in the room with the bodies but investigators don't know if drugs played any part in the deaths.

Next-door neighbor Julia Harper told the Bay Area Reporter that Lothammer had "come out" several years ago and felt comfortable being openly gay in the neighborhood. Another neighbor and an openly lesbian woman, Kiriyo Spooner, told the B.A.R. that several gay people lived along Richmond Boulevard and the quiet neighborhood was very accepting.



Ed Walsh
Flowers outside the home of John Lothammer and Francisco Espana-Noyola

Lothammer had been employed as a social worker and most recently had worked as a teacher. Oakland Technical High School's principal, Larry Todd, told the B.A.R. that Lothammer taught Spanish and French there until September 1998. Todd said Lothammer left the school and went on administrative leave. Todd said he believed it was for a medical problem. Harper said Lothammer had broken his hip and took time off work to recover.

Neighbors say the couple was well-liked on the street. Espana-Noyola was known for his love of animals. He had adopted several stray dogs and the couple had been caring for four adult dogs, and five puppies, according to neighbor Donna Reynolds who took care of the dogs after the men's bodies were discovered. One of the adult dogs is a Siberian husky, the others are husky, terrier, and shepherd mixes, Reynolds said. Reynolds is coordinating the adoptions and

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Nary gets 16 years to life

by Katie Szymanski

Steven Nary, the former Navy sailor convicted in late October of murdering gay publisher Juan Pifarre, was sentenced to 16 years to life by Judge Kevin Ryan in San Francisco Superior Court on Tuesday, November 30. The sentence was set by statute and not flexible, despite an emotional plea by Nary's friend to "spare his life."

"We're very pleased with the conviction, because the way the penalty is prescribed, the judge has no leniency one way or another," said Ron Huberman, investigator for the district attorney's office.

But Ryan did have a choice as to whether an additional year—an enhanced sentence due to the use of a deadly weapon—could be served concurrently or consecutively. Ryan chose to make the term consecutive, guaranteeing that Nary will serve an extra year.

Because he has already served time in county jail after being arrested and charged with Pifarre's murder in 1996, Nary will be eligible for a parole hearing in 12 years and four months, although it is unlikely he will be paroled at that time. Nary is expected to soon be transferred to state prison where he will serve the remainder of his sentence.

Nary was 18 when he went home with Pifarre, 54, where the two engaged in oral sex and fell asleep in the same bed. In what he claimed was "self defense" from "unwanted sodomy" later that night, Nary hit Pifarre over the head with a glass mug, beat him, speared him with a towel bar, and choked him unconscious. Nary's defense attorney Bruce Hotchkiss said Nary was coerced into the entire evening, insisting that "no normal teenager" would ever go home with a middle-aged man. The jury took just two days to find Nary guilty of second-degree murder. Hotchkiss has announced he will appeal. ▶

Remembering Harvey Milk



Marc Geller

An estimated 400 people, including San Francisco mayoral candidates Tom Ammiano and Willie Brown, took part in a march from the Castro to City Hall last Saturday, November 27, commemorating the 21st anniversary of the Harvey Milk-George Moscone killings. Milk was murdered, along with Moscone, by disgruntled ex-Supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978. The annual march turned into a campaign rally for Ammiano. See page five for story.

State AG changes Knight initiative title

by Terry Beswick



Rick Gerhardt
Mike Marshall

With his decision last Tuesday, November 23 to agree with a complaint from a gay legal rights group and give a new formal title—Limit on Marriages initiative—to Proposition 22, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer may have dealt the statewide ballot measure's proponents a subtle yet fatal blow.

"This change in the title is an important step in our efforts to show voters that there is much more to this unfair, divisive, and intrusive measure than meets the eye," said Mike Marshall, campaign manager for Californians for Fairness, which is leading efforts to defeat the initiative.

Proposition 22, which would ban recognition in California of same-sex marriages in the event that they are someday legalized in another state, has been referred to by many informal names on both sides of the debate.

The campaign in favor of Proposition 22, which will be on the March 7, 2000 presidential primary ballot, is fond of calling it the "Protection of Marriage," or the "Defense of Marriage" initiative—names that have worked well for them in banning gay marriage on a federal level, as well as in 30 other states.

The campaign to defeat the measure has taken to calling it the "Knight initiative," a reminder that it was authored by conserva-

tive state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), the father of an estranged, openly gay son, and the legislator who twice failed to pass similar laws through the state Legislature, leading him and other right-wing backers to put the issue on the ballot.

But what may be more important, particularly for undecided voters, is not the nickname given a measure by the partisan campaigns on either side, but the formal title printed on the bal-

lot when they cast their votes.

"There is a high percentage of voters who

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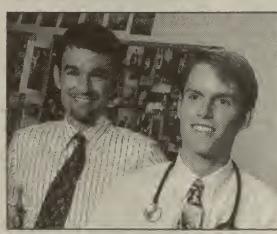
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Thanksgiving food, fellowship



A good crowd turned out on Thanksgiving last Thursday, November 25, for a free dinner at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy that was hosted by Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Church. Hundreds of people showed up for the annual event.

Marc Geller

'Santa PAWS' is coming to town

by Katie Szymanski

The staff at Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS) has announced that it's time to "Fluff up your poodle and make sure your Siamese smiles pretty," because "Santa PAWS" is coming to town this Sunday, December 5 at Ghirardelli Square's West Plaza.

For a \$10 donation, animal owners can have their pets photographed with Santa and take home a five inch by seven inch portrait or framed ornament fea-

turing their beloved on Kris Kringle's lap. One lucky pet owner who purchases a raffle ticket will win his/her pet's weight in Ghirardelli chocolate.

Proceeds from the event go to PAWS, a nonprofit group that provides services to people in San Francisco living with AIDS so that they may keep their animal companions. PAWS offers a pet food bank, subsidized veterinary care, dog walking, and other services that people with terminal illnesses are often unable to access themselves.

Sunday's event is from noon to 4 p.m. at 900 North Point, between Polk and Larkin streets. Discounted parking with validation is available in the Ghirardelli Square garage with entrances at Larkin and Beach streets.

The event is sponsored by Beastro By The Bay, Ghirardelli Square, and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, and will be held rain or shine. ▼

For more information, call (415) 346-1010.

'Holi-daze' at Stop AIDS Project

by Terry Beswick

Not everyone looks forward to the holiday season. And for people who are separated from their biological family by distance or by ideology, it can be a particularly sad and lonely time.

For others, it is the obligatory family visit itself that brings on stress and depression.

Many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people seem to fit in one of the above categories. Some have developed their own

alternative ways of fighting the annual holiday funk that can sometimes lead to self-destructive behavior, often choosing to celebrate at home with their adopted family of friends.

This year, millennial fever could further heighten the need to plan ahead for a safe, sane holiday season.

This Wednesday, December 8, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Stop AIDS Project invites gay and bisexual men to "Holi-daze," a chat with other guys about "queer holiday traditions."

Both HIV-positive and -negative men are encouraged to gather for the free event, described as an "upbeat and hopeful look at how other gay and bi men celebrate the holidays."

"Holi-daze" will be held at the Stop AIDS Project at 2128 15th at Market streets in San Francisco. ▼

To sign up for the chat, or for information, contact Mike at (415) 575-0155, or e-mail at mike@stopaids.org.

'Couture' breast cancer benefit Thursday

by Katie Szymanski

With an elegant evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, fine art, and the hottest men's and women's clothing, the Toomey-Tourell Gallery presents its second annual "Couture for the Cure" on Thursday, December 9, a fashion show event to raise money for Breast Cancer Action (BCA).

"It will be a lovely event," said

gallery spokeswoman Robby Robinson, adding that one of the gallery owners is a breast cancer survivor. "We're huge fans of Breast Cancer Action, so we're happy to be able to give them a big donation."

Last year's event raised \$5,000 for BCA, an activist group that takes to the streets to draw attention to how corporate policies perpetuate the disease.

This year, food will be provided by Oliveto, cosmopolitans

will be made by Absolut, and chocolates will come from Bernard Callebaut. Designers Ryan Roberts and Robert Berry will showcase their lines, and art will be sold at a live auction. The event is \$20 per person and starts at 7 p.m. in the Toomey-Tourell and jennjoy galleries, on the fourth floor of 49 Geary Street. RSVP is requested by December 6; to respond, or for more information, call (650) 342-5566. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Brazen robbery at San Francisco pot club

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco police are searching for three suspects wanted for the terrifying takeover robbery of a recently opened medical marijuana club.

The robbery happened at 6:50 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, at the San Francisco Patients' Resource Center (SFPRC) on 350 Divisadero Street near Oak Street. The suspects got away with \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of marijuana and less than \$1,000 cash, according to Jane Weirick, one of SFPRC's directors, who added that the center is still trying to tabulate exactly how much cash and marijuana are missing.

"It was a very terrifying experience for everyone involved," said SFPRC director Randi Webster, who is still shaken by the attack.

Webster said one of the suspects held a gun to a patient's head and demanded to know where the money was kept. "He turned to me and said 'Okay, bitch, where's the money?' He kept pointing the gun back and forth between the patient and me," Webster told the Bay Area Reporter. Webster said there were eight patients and four staff members in the center at the time of the robbery.

Staff members turned over the center's cash to the suspects who grabbed all the marijuana they could get their hands on before running out.

Webster said staff members had discussed the possibility of a robbery in one of their meetings and agreed to act in a way to give their patients' security the highest priority. "Dead heroes aren't heroes when you're dealing with people's safety," said Webster.

Another of SFPRC's directors, Gary Farnsworth, said he estimates the robbery lasted less than two minutes, but seemed like much longer. Farnsworth said the center has already stepped up security, and has installed a second wall so that anyone who enters will have to be buzzed in twice before getting into the building. Farnsworth's arm was scraped and he was knocked to the ground when he tried to brace himself up against the center's door to keep the suspects out.

Witnesses said two of the suspects were carrying guns. All three were described as African American men in their late 20s to early 30s. Webster said one of the men had a slender build, but the other two were stocky. Two of the men were wearing dark clothes, the third wore a white wind-breaker type jacket with dark sleeves. ▼

Castro youth shelter plan D.O.A.

by Terry Beswick

After four months of painstaking negotiations among Castro neighborhood residents, an alternative plan to shelter homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in the old City Athletic Club building at 2500 Market Street finally arrived Tuesday, November 30 at City Hall.

The plan, which represented thousands of hours of volunteer work, was dead on arrival.

Just hours after representatives of the 21-member Castro neighborhood community advisory committee (CAC) met with San



From left, CAC members Changiz Khazeni, Gustavo Serina, Patrick Batt, Joshua Susser deliver the final report to Supervisor Mark Leno.

Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno to present their final 113-page report, Tor Hansen, the building's owner, abruptly withdrew his offer to lease his building to the

city for the project.

Leno had hoped to open a shelter at 2500 Market before winter, using \$250,000 that he and

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Fight Knight in East Bay Saturday

by Terry Beswick

If you live in the East Bay, and you've been looking for a way to help defeat the Knight initiative, you have two events to choose from this Saturday, December 4. If you've been especially remiss in your No on Knight duties, you can even make it to both.

In Hayward, from 1 to 3 p.m., opponents of the March 2000 ballot measure are hosting a benefit for Californians for Fairness/No on Knight, the campaign to defeat Proposition 22, the initiative authored by arch-conservative state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) that would ban future recognition

of gay marriages in California.

Hosted by Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality (GLOBE) and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, the benefit takes place at the Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church at 27287 Patrick Avenue in Hayward. A \$25 donation is suggested; food and drink will be provided.

A speaker from the No on Knight campaign will be on hand to address what is happening with the campaign, how people can get involved, and "why this initiative is important to all of us," according to organizers.

Later that day, in Oakland, at 6:30 p.m., a benefit for Californians for Fairness/No on Knight

will be held at the Pacific Bridge Gallery in Jack London Square, at 95 Linden Street, Suite 6.

Refreshments, conversation, and art will be featured at the event, including selections from the photo exhibit, "Love Makes a Family."

A donation of \$20 or more is requested. The benefit is being hosted by John Mburu, Jeffrey Mittman, and Chloe Watts. ▼

To RSVP for the Hayward benefit, call Eugene Marangoni at (510) 475-1125. To RSVP for the Oakland event, call (510) 272-9380 or e-mail noonknight@prodigy.net.

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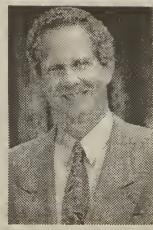
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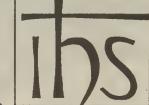
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415.575.0155 / www.stopaids.org



Library Commission disguises its cuts

Castro, Mission branches to lose hours

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco Public Library would like the public to know that it has added seven library hours and increased the availability of children's rooms by 12 hours.

"The proposed new open hours modify library schedules with minimal changes to present services," said a statement from library officials. As a result of Proposition E, passed by voters in 1994, the library's budget was increased and the Library Commission must revisit its open hours every five years. This year the commission made changes after holding public hearings at each branch.

But what the statement doesn't say — and what the library isn't highlighting in its announcement — is that while some hours were added (mostly to certain rooms in branches that are already open during these hours), nine hours overall were cut from the system. And these hours were cut from weekend and evening schedules, despite the public's input that these hours were most useful.

A public meeting on the issue is scheduled for this Tuesday, December 7, at the Main Library.

One hour was cut from the Harvey Milk/Eureka Valley branch of the library, at 3555 16th Street. If approved, beginning on January 3, 2000, the Eureka Valley branch will no longer be open at noon on Saturdays, adopting instead a schedule of 1 to 6 p.m. The same cut was made at the Anza, Ingleside, North Beach, Ocean View, Potrero, and Visitacion Valley branches.

The change was made, according to library public affairs director Marcia Schneider, for "operational reasons."

"If that staff is short one day, then someone can take lunch without disrupting public service," Schneider told the Bay Area Reporter. But the branches named have "medium-sized" staffs, according to Schneider, and are not shorter-staffed than most of the city's other 26 branches. Additionally, despite the library's goal to "increase public service hours," the commission will cut an hour at the Mission branch, at 300 Bartlett Street, on Wednesday nights, and another hour at the Potrero branch, at 1616 20th Street, on Monday nights.

The premise under which the library is cutting hours is deceptive and unwarranted, according to some concerned library patrons.

"They're obscuring what they're doing," said James Chaffee, who has been following the ac-

tions of the Library Commission for years. It was Chaffee, who, at a November 18 public hearing, pointed out an arithmetic error to the commission; the library's original paperwork shows an increase of seven hours, but because of Chaffee's protest, it now shows a decrease of two hours.

"Touting an additional seven hours is a lie," said Chaffee. "Certain branches that used to open the kids' rooms later are discontinuing that practice and claiming there are additional hours. Those are not additional hours."

In fact, even where certain branches were given hours, these hours came at the price of reduced hours somewhere else in the week. The Parkside branch at 1200 Taraval, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays instead of opening at noon, will now open an hour later on Mondays, at 1 p.m. The only branch to obtain an extra two hours without compromise was the Noe Valley branch, at 451 Jersey Street. The number of open hours at the Main Library, which includes the James Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, will not change.

"The changes were made to be as confusing as possible," said one library patron who asked to remain nameless, "so that nobody would protest."

While Chaffee finds the trickery to be the most offensive piece

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SF school jarred by theft

by Katie Szymanski

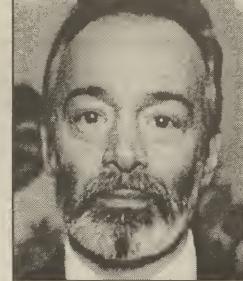
Ever since learning about the "Every Penny Counts" campaign from the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), the kids at Rooftop Alternative School at 443 Burnett Avenue in San Francisco have been collecting coins and donations to give to the organization. Under Principal Richard Curchi, the students have been engaged in various activities to raise awareness of the disease, and the penny crusade had become a favorite way for them to do something for the community.

But last week, sometime between the afternoon of November 23 and the morning of the 24th, students in two classes returned to find that their rooms had been broken into and looted.

Taken from the fourth grade class of Amy Whitcomb and the first grade class of Wes Lane were six computers, a printer, two cameras, a VCR, a boombox, and several compact discs. But what the kids were most upset about were their missing penny jars.

"They were shocked," Whitcomb told the Bay Area Reporter. Whitcomb was recently featured in the San Francisco Chronicle for being one of the Bay Area's top five teachers. "They couldn't believe that someone would take the money that they were going to give to help people with AIDS."

"I was pretty devastated," Curchi told the B.A.R., adding that it is impossible to determine the exact amount of money taken, because the jars were filled with "all different kinds of change." Addi-



Richard Curchi

tionally, many of the electronic devices stolen were personal donations and not covered by insurance.

But Curchi also noted the tremendous outpouring of support from within the school community.

"I took a former Tootsie Roll jar to our other campus (at 500 Corbett), and explained to the students there what had happened," said Curchi. "Kids came right up, eager to replenish what we had lost. It's really indicative of our caring student population."

"We decided we weren't going to let someone take away from our spirit," said Whitcomb, whose class has already begun to re-raise the money for AEF. "It's pretty incredible, the way everyone has come together." ▼

Donations can be made to Rooftop Alternative School, 443 Burnett Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94131, or by contacting the school at (415) 695-5691.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ammiano the only candidate allowed to speak at Milk March

by Cynthia Laird

The political is personal, and at the Saturday, November 27 march to remember the 21st anniversary of the assassination of Supervisor Harvey Milk, the Democratic club that bears his name did not allow Mayor Willie Brown to address the crowd. The Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club did allow Brown's opponent — and its endorsed candidate — Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, to say a few words, and it let former Supervisor Harry Britt unabashedly stump for Ammiano.

Milk Club President Criss Romero was unapologetic. "This year, nobody asked to speak and I didn't ask either," he said as the memorial wrapped up. Last year's large 20th anniversary program that was attended by several thousand people included many speakers. This year's event was much smaller; the crowd was estimated at 400.

Milk and former Mayor George Moscone were gunned down in their City Hall offices on November 27, 1978 by ex-Supervisor Dan White, who was upset when he learned Moscone would not reappoint him to the Board of



Mayor Willie Brown, left, shares a few words with Supervisor Tom Ammiano before the Milk March.

Supervisors after he resigned.

Last Saturday's candlelight march in front of Milk's former camera store on Castro Street. Brown and Ammiano greeted one another prior to the march, which not surprisingly included mostly Ammiano supporters. On December 14, voters will elect one of the men mayor.

Romero made brief remarks in the Castro and was critical of

openly gay and lesbian politicians who have endorsed Brown. "When it comes to supporting a great cause of our community, we hear silence and Harvey Milk wouldn't be happy about that," Romero said. "The difference between the Milk Club and the Alice [Toklas] Club is we support the

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Two groups team up for holiday fundraising

by Katie Szymanski

The Pride Collaborative and Under One Roof have announced their upcoming holiday benefits, one of which they will host together.

This Friday, December 3, the Pride Collaborative, an affiliation of the United Way, hosts its "Pride Power Breakfast" from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

The breakfast features a panel entitled, "Fly the Gay-Friendly Skies?" to discuss United Airlines' challenge to San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance. Panelists include Dennis Aftergut, chief assistant city attorney, San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, Nick Morse, United with Pride's executive director, and Jeff Sheehy, of Equal Benefits Advocates. The panel will be moderated by Cynthia Goldstein of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

Admission to the breakfast, which takes place at 555 California Street in the Belvedere Room on the 52nd floor, is \$10, and benefits the Pride Collaborative in its efforts to provide support and ad-

vocacy to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people (LGBT) in the workplace.

This Sunday, December 5, the Pride Collaborative hosts its holiday party at Under One Roof at 549 Castro Street, the first retail specialty store in the nation dedicated to AIDS fundraising.

A \$25 admission fee includes catered food and an open bar, and guests can shop at Under One Roof for a 20 percent discount on everything in the store. Under One Roof gives 100 percent of its profits to numerous AIDS service organizations.

Under One Roof will then host its own celebration with its sixth annual wine tasting and sale on Thursday, December 9, an event that benefits the Napa Valley HIV Network, and Sonoma County's Food for Thought organization. The store will also be open for shopping, and those proceeds benefit over 50 Northern California AIDS organizations.

The wine tasting is free and offers guests a chance to sample the world's finest wines and gourmet

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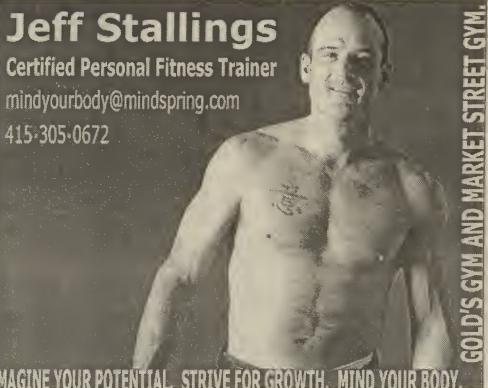
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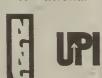
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The case for Brown and Fazio

This has been a difficult election for many people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Support one of us; or stick with an incumbent whom many in the community supported for the past four years, and whom many in the community endorsed long before we knew that we would have the choice we face now.

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano has already accomplished a lot just by making the December 14 runoff election. He has shown that San Francisco still has a strong grassroots orientation. He has forced Mayor Willie Brown to address head-on several important issues — such as affordable housing and the living wage — that he otherwise may not have considered as vocally.

But the decision San Franciscans face is whom should be mayor for the next four years, not board president. While a board president can lead the city in progressive policy, the mayor is chief executive. The role is largely an administrative one, focused on implementation, not legislation and policy formation. It is often in the execution of legislation or policy that the value of compromise is most important, as lofty goals confront cold, hard facts and real-world complications.

Ammiano promotes leadership by principle; Brown promotes leadership by compromise. Each has its place in San Francisco. The mayor that San Francisco needs now, however, is someone who can promote broad coalitions, who can sit down at the table with different sides and help reach middle ground and find workable solutions.

Furthermore, the election isn't just of one person, but an entire administration. Certainly, there have been some problems with individual members of this administration. Nevertheless, it is a diverse group, drawing together people from a broad range of politics and communities. Ammiano has not demonstrated that he can develop such a coalition. Had he begun his campaign during the summer, perhaps he might have done so. But an insurgency movement is not the same thing as an administration.

Ammiano is fond of saying that because he often can't get support from his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, he takes his issues to the people via ballot initiatives, such as he did with the ban on ATM fees. But look what has happened: the banks immediately went to court to stop the initiative and have threatened to block access to ATMs if the law is upheld, potentially making it much more difficult for people to get their money. All people had to do in the first place was use their own bank's ATM to avoid the double charges. Now, the city must fork over thousands of dollars in legal fees to fight what will probably be a losing battle. Is that efficient use of government money? We don't think so.

Being mayor of San Francisco is a tough job. Problems such as the housing crisis and ineffective mass transit have plagued the city for years. The present administration has done more to address these problems than previous administrations. Brown has admitted his mistake in saying that the Muni could be fixed in 100 days; and while it has taken time, results are now visible, with more new buses on the streets and an improved Metro system. Brown has begun

to address the housing crisis, but much more must be done.

The decision San Franciscans face isn't about sexual orientation, or race, or purity of ideology. The decision each voter needs to make is simply this — who would be a more effective mayor, and who would have a more effective administration?

Faced with this decision, we believe Mayor Brown is the right choice, and urge readers to vote for him on December 14.

The district attorney's race

Four years ago, with the same candidates in the runoff election for this office, the *Bay Area Reporter* urged our readers to vote for Terence Hallinan. We cannot make that recommendation again. Under Hallinan's tenure, the San Francisco District Attorney's office has become a statewide embarrassment; the conviction rate for violent crimes in this country is the worst in California. Hallinan, attempting to defend his conviction record, tries to suggest that San Francisco is different, that the laws that apply to the rest of the state somehow shouldn't apply here.

Hallinan would have us believe that the statistics were somehow skewed because of "politics" or the "bias" of the press that was "out to get him." Nonsense. The truth is that Hallinan, a career defense attorney, hasn't any idea how to run a prosecutor's office. He should be replaced.

An early clue as to how Hallinan was to run one of the biggest district attorney's offices was revealed when, only weeks after taking office, he promptly fired more than a dozen seasoned, highly qualified attorneys in a single day so that he could make room for the lawyers he had promised jobs to during his campaign.

Hallinan, always attempting to defend his sorry record, continually rattles the numbers of gays, lesbians, Asians, African American, and other minorities he has hired, pointing to the diversity of the office.

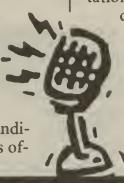
Again, the truth is that Hallinan's predecessor, Arlo Smith, diversified that office long before Hallinan took over.

Hallinan's opponent, Bill Fazio, has 20 years of experience as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's office. He spent many years preparing and trying hundreds of violent criminal cases, and gained a reputation for being an effective, fair, and successful prosecutor in the very difficult areas of rape and child abuse. Fazio has experience in gay-bashing cases; in 1984 he prosecuted the case of *People v. Clanton et al.*, a gay-bashing murder. He obtained a conviction in this case that was one of the first hate-crime murder convictions in the country.

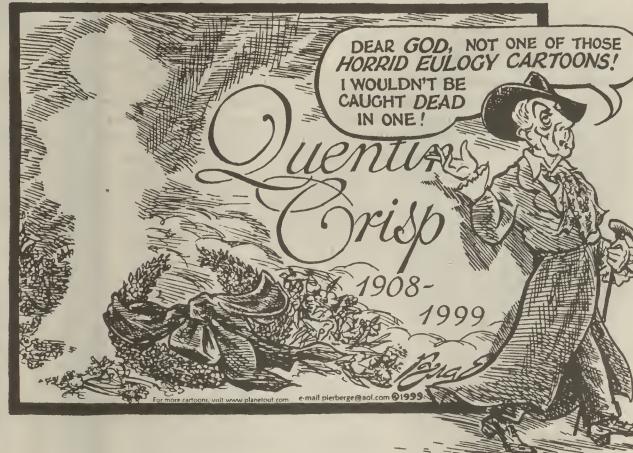
Fazio met recently with us and pledged something he had mentioned at an endorsement meeting: if elected, he anticipates one of his top three management spots will be filled by a qualified openly gay or lesbian person. While that is not the only reason we support Fazio, it is proof of his commitment to continuing the diversity in the district attorney's office and maintaining good relations with the LGBT community. Fazio has also stated he supports medical marijuana and will work with the police and other city leaders to implement Proposition 215.

Fazio is a fair-minded attorney who has the experience San Francisco needs to convict violent offenders; he has the compassion to implement a comprehensive treatment program throughout the criminal justice system for substance abusing offenders. Another of Fazio's goals is revamping the juvenile justice system; he plans to introduce restorative justice into that system where the victim is made whole and the juvenile recognizes the wrongfulness of their conduct.

San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Brown, whose office stands to gain the most by Hallinan's well-known ineffective administration, has endorsed Fazio, saying the former prosecutor possesses the qualities to be a first-class district attorney. We agree. Vote for Bill Fazio on December 14. ▼



Editorial



Don't co-opt Milk's legacy

by James Bagi

At the risk of giving comfort to the Willie Brown camp, I've got to say that there ought to be a law against gays using Harvey Milk's name as a means of justifying their politics. Like makeup on a drag queen, it is so overdone. Tom Ammiano's continual attempt to cloak himself in Harvey's mantle is an unseemly display of prancing narcissism. It is no different than Gary Bauer's claim of being the heir apparent to Ronald Reagan. Men who have so little faith in their own character, must often resort to co-opting the mythology of others. It's a way of masking their shortcomings and obscuring the issues of the day.

It's not that I have an ax to grind with Ammiano. It's just that I am not impressed with gay leaders who invoke the "Harvey Seal of Approval" as a way of legitimizing their agenda. Or, as is more frequently the case, use it to sanction who is "gay enough" to be able to speak on gay issues or other political matters. It has the effect of stifling dissent and otherwise keeping out new voices. That is what I take issue with.

Maybe it's a generational thing. We could debate the contributions and legacy of Harvey Milk for years to come, but the one thing that is most clear is that he was a man of his times. Today, we

need a man of our times.

Instead of reaching back to the ideas and icons of yesteryear, I want a leader who will tell me what they are going to do about today's problems. I want to know what they are going to do to groom and nurture tomorrow's generation so that they have the tools necessary to take their place at the table.

Guest Opinion

If Tom wants the support of the people of San Francisco, he should concentrate on here and now, and stop trying to convince people that he's been anointed in the martyr's blood. It's time to let Harvey rest in peace. He's done his job, now it's time for us to do ours. ▼

LETTERS

Proud to be intact

No one has the right to butt into someone else's crotch and remove anything. This sleazy quack is sowing the wind; he is going to reap the whirlwind. Intact and proud of it.

Sonny Corso
Kenner, Louisiana

Don't cut it off!

I would like to respond to the article "Uncut Men More Likely to be HIV-positive" [November 25]. This article quotes Daniel Halperin of UCSF, who claims that the foreskin is an "Achilles' heel" that serves as a portal for HIV infection. If circumcision is such a cure-all, why does the United States (where 90 percent of all sexually active males have been circumcised) have a rate of HIV infection eight times that of France, Germany, and Sweden (all countries where circumcision is almost unheard of)? Could it be that Halperin is cooking his numbers somewhere? Or does he have a vested interest in cutting off foreskins?

It seems that, as time goes on, the quacks who promote circumcision invent new claims as the old "benefits" of circumcision are disproven. At the turn of the century, circumcision was promoted to prevent masturbation (claimed to be the cause of all kinds of horrible medical and psychological problems). In the 1940s, the quacks claimed that circumcision prevented VD. In the 1950s, cervical and penile cancer were the dreaded diseases "prevented" by circumcision. Now, the quacks are spreading the cruel misinformation that circumcision prevents or reduces the incidence of HIV infection.

Let me tell you the real "benefits" of circumcision: It will give you a desensitized penis that is little better than a skin-covered dowel. As you get older, it will make it harder and harder for you to achieve orgasm. It may even make it impossible for you to sustain an erection. If too much shaft skin is removed (common in neonatal circumcisions), it will result in tight, painful erections. It will give you a really big incentive to engage in unprotected sex, as a condom-covered circumcised penis is about as sexually sensitive as your index finger. Perhaps this is why the U.S.A. has such a high incidence of HIV and AIDS compared to other developed countries.

I was circumcised at birth, as I had the misfortune to be born in the United States in 1953. Progressive desensitization of the penis and tight, painful erections led me to have foreskin restoration surgery three years ago. The operation was successful, but it was very expensive. But for the first time in my life, I have a sexual organ rather than an unresponsive stick.

The foreskin is there for a reason. Don't cut it off!

Philip E. Galasso
West Creek, New Jersey

Guys, keep your foreskins

Once again the defenders of male genital mutilation have invented another fear tactic to stop the successful anti-circumcision movement. In the last few years their hygiene myths have been disproven by real scientific evidence. Their claims of more frequent VD and cancer among uncircumcised men was proven to be false. So now they have gone back to square one with the same unfounded claims of AIDS infection being more prevalent among uncircumcised men. Absent from all debates in the past was the discussion of what purpose the foreskin really serves. They never talked about the loss of sensitivity in the head of a penis which is always exposed. Gee, what would happen to the profitable sexual lubrication industry if every man could move inside of his own skin as God intended? What they seem to be suggesting is that men who still have foreskin should have it removed to reduce the risk of AIDS. I don't see the relevance of the argument. If you use a condom then the whole subject is irrelevant. If you are in a monogamous heterosexual relationship and planning to have children it is also irrelevant. So what is the point? I don't get it.

In the November 25 B.A.R. article Daniel Halperin is quoted saying, "The number of infections probably caused by lack of male circumcision already reaches into the millions." I would bring your attention to the word "probably." The reason this word is inserted is to protect the author in the future when the theory is proven wrong. This is based on statistics, not real scientific research. What they are not telling you is that the findings could be caused by the fact that the numbers of circumcised and uncircumcised men vary from country to country and culture to culture. If you put the numbers of infected men from a culture that has a high incidence of AIDS and is 80 percent uncircumcised, then compare it with a culture that is 80 percent circumcised and has a lower rate of AIDS infection, boom, you get to prove the point you wanted and make up a theory about the sensitivity of the foreskin. Great, it made good headlines. But I say hogwash. Keep your foreskin guys and buy condoms if you want to be safe.

Robert Starkey, aka The Truth Fairy
San Francisco

Disgusted with Milk memorial

Regarding the Harvey Milk memorial candle light march, it is disgusting that Tom Ammiano let his people make a night to remember and march for Harvey Milk into an Ammiano campaign. The key words here are "Harvey Milk" and "memorial." I went to pay tribute to Harvey Milk and George Moscone, not hear a bullshit campaign speech for Tom and listen to them put the mayor down before and after the march. The words that were spoken against Mayor Brown by the speakers were out of place and wrong. What kind of message are we sending to others in government that support the gay community? Support us and we'll turn on you just because someone gay is running. If we are going to elect someone gay to office, let us wait and let it be someone that has the know-how, like Carole Migden or Mark Leno when he's ready.

I know where my support is going on December 14.

Morgan Gorrono
San Francisco

Elated and disgusted in R.I.

I have never been so elated and disgusted at the same time in all my life. I have just heard about the unprecedented and phenomenal showing Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano made in the San Francisco mayor's race in which he received 46,000 write-in votes. What pisses me off was reading that all six of the city's other openly gay elected officials have endorsed Willie Brown over one of our own.

Clearly, these six have forgotten why an openly gay elected official should be supported over any other candidate; even our longtime pro-gay straight allies. There are roughly only 180 openly LGBT elected officials nationwide out of approximately 500,000 elected positions ranging from dog catcher to president of the U.S.A. When our numbers rise from 180 to 50,000, then we can start talking about supporting non-LGBT candidates over members of our own community.

Secondly, openly LGBT politicians should understand that we are in a unique position to change attitudes, break down stereotypes, and become strong, positive LGBT role models for our youth and the community at large.

I know that Assemblywoman Carole Migden agrees with me, since it is well known, even across the country, that she has made a deal with Willie Brown to have his support for the mayor's seat herself when he is term-limited out of office. She has betrayed her own people for the sake of her own ambition to be the first gay mayor in San Francisco. She, and the other five traitorous LGBT elected officials, Susan Leal, Leslie Katz, Mark Leno, Juanita Owens, and Lawrence Wong, have lost all sense of the distinction between what it means to be a gay advocate versus an advocate for the gay community.

Assemblywoman Migden and others might respond by saying that it is necessary to support and make deals with those in power if she is to pass pro-gay legislation (to say nothing of making sure her political ambitions are taken care of). She may point to her recent legislative victories as proof of this. For the record, I have never made deals with the leaders of my Legislature for passage of pro-gay legislation and I have a great record of accomplishment.

In Harvey Milk's "Hope Speech" he said, "The first gay people we elect must be strong. They must be above wheeling and dealing. They must be – for the good of all of us – independent, unbought." I have nothing against Willie Brown. In any other situation, I might support him. But Milk also said, "Friends can't feel our anger and frustration. They can sense it in us, but they can't feel it. Because a friend has never gone through what is known as coming out." I suspect Harvey Milk would prefer Willie Brown over many other straight politicians, but he would never, ever vote for him over someone like Tom Ammiano.

Michael Pisaturo, Rhode Island State Representative
Chair of the Board of Directors
The International Network of
Lesbian and Gay Officials

Is there a disconnect?

Within our community, we would be well-served to examine the disconnect between the positions of our (apparent) leadership and those they presume to represent. These include elected queer officials (Carole Migden, Mark Leno, Leslie Katz), the absolute control over endorsements from owner-publishers of the two largest community newspapers exercise (B.A.R. and Bay Times), and the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club (aka, "The Jack Davis Puppeteers"). What purports to be in "our best interest," is often more rightly about compromised values and self-serving agendas. I would hesitate to mention any of this had not at least one of these two newspapers written so extensively on the importance of accountability of community-based institutions to those they serve. Take a lesson, class.

Michael Lauro
San Francisco

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Criminalize homelessness

I write this letter to applaud the stand taken by New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in his declaration to arrest any homeless people who refuse to go to homeless shelters.

How fortunate New Yorkers are to have a mayor who is courageous enough to stand up to the forces of those who would say that we should not criminalize homelessness.

We, the citizens of our once beautiful San Francisco, are relegated to the direction of career politicians who say anything to garner a vote and then follow a course of action that has reduced our city to a den of filth.

I direct my comments to those who say: "We should have compassion. We should have sympathy." I say, let us not confuse these terms. Let us not play on the minds of our citizenry with political rhetoric.

As a tax paying citizen, I should not have to clean human excrement in front of my home because of homelessness. Homelessness is a crime and should be treated as such. We as humans have a very basic responsibility to ourselves and to society to take care of ourselves and to provide for our needs.

We, as a civilized society, should isolate those who because of illness, mental or otherwise, are unable to care for themselves, and provide necessary assistance to insure a basic standard of living with dignity and respect. We have the necessary resources.

We must teach our children social responsibility and basic values that are consistent with an orderly and civil society.

Joseph J. Titi Jr.
San Francisco**Writer confused about Aggies**

Jim Provenzano seems to be very confused about the student life here at Texas A&M University. [School spirits, November 25.] I am not sure what your purpose was in the article, but may I ask, how dare you? Your perceptions about bonfire, our rivalry with UT, the red pots, and our traditions are extremely distorted.

You wrote about something that people like you will never understand. A&M is a well-respected university because Aggies are decent, honorable people who have integrity and respect for their fellow man. Some ideals that based on your writing I am going to assume (as you have) that you do not possess. Throughout this tragedy I have received tons of emails and several have been about crude things papers have published. I have responded to many of those, but I feel very justified in responding to your very untrue, crude, and ridiculous article. Maybe you should visit the campus, attend one of our Silver Taps where we honor those who have died the previous month, or Muster where we annually have a roll call for all the Aggies who are not with us. Maybe then "some shred of reality" can brighten your "scary, haunted" career as a reporter.

Kendra Redmon
Texas A&M University, Class of 2001**Thanks for commitment to free speech**

I just wanted to write to thank you folks at the Bay Area Reporter for doing such a nice job on the advertisement that HEAL SF placed in your November 11 issue (page 12). The ad concerned a talk that I was giving at the Park Branch Library, which was entitled: "An Examination of Mainstream and Dissident Views of HIV and AIDS." The B.A.R. ad, like the talk itself, discussed a number of views of HIV and AIDS that have been proposed in the scientific literature, but which are currently extremely unpopular, particularly in the gay community. I am of course referring to the theory that HIV plays no role in AIDS, and to the view that HIV may not exist.

Through my own research, I have come to believe that these views deserve to be more widely covered by the media. In the continuing dearth of such coverage, I very much appreciate the B.A.R.'s willingness to accept HEAL's advertisement of my own modest effort to inform the public of these views and the evidence on which they are based. It would in some ways perhaps be easier for the B.A.R. not to run ads that are liable to offend most readers, and I commend you for your professionalism and your commitment to free speech.

Kurt Van Quill
San Francisco**Take the money, but don't honor DuPont**

Many thanks to Jeff Getty ("Dirty Money," November 25) for his thorough research and cogent, understated summary of the vile spectacle of swimming in blood money in which Willie Brown, his hacks, and DuPont have engaged.

I, like Jeff, believe that CAPS and U.C. do have to take the money and run, but the idea that Willie Brown and DuPont, a "Boss Tweed" huckster and a merchant of death respectively, should be honored for their "rob Peter to pay Paul" sleights of hand is despicable. From the mayor's office, to the office of the DPH director, to the regulatory oversight agencies

that should be keeping an eye on DuPont, a thorough rooting of the bums is in order.

Luke Adams
San Francisco**Water facility = bathhouse**

If "bathhouses do currently exist in San Francisco," as Stop AIDS Program Director Steve Gibson asserts (letters, October 28), why does the press, straight and gay, persist in describing them as having been closed in 1984? And why did Stop AIDS not include "bathhouses" among public sex venues listed on fliers distributed to publicize its forum on public sex?

Surely Stop AIDS is teasing us once again. Does Mr. Gibson really think that those who have been fighting the privacy ban since 1977 - and those organizations that have gone on record against the ban, *viz.*, the Milk Club, the LGBT Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Commission, the HIV Prevention Planning Council, and the Board of Directors of the Tenderloin Coalition on AIDS - does he really think that so many individuals and organizations do not know that by code it is a water facility, such as steamroom, sauna, or whirlpool, that makes "a bathhouse" and not the availability of private space? Which in fact raises the question of why the "sex club" that provided the venue for the Stop AIDS Project's forum on public sex and which has the facilities of many a "straight" bathhouse does not advertise itself as such or, so far as I know, have a bathhouse license?

Reid Condit
San Francisco**City officials have clear mandate**

This past election San Franciscans upheld last year's decision to replace the earthquake-damaged section of the Central Freeway with a four-block long boulevard. Proposition I, which reaffirmed the boulevard won by a 54 percent to 46 percent margin. Proposition J, which would have repealed the Boulevard plan lost by 53 percent to 47 percent.

Hopefully this vote will put to rest a painful 10-year saga that began with the Loma Prieta earthquake and included three very divisive ballot initiatives. City officials now have a clear mandate. It's time for them to move the project forward and for those on both sides of the issue to come together to insure we build a beautiful boulevard that will serve the needs of all San Franciscans.

As co-chair of the Committee to Build the Boulevard, I would like to personally express my appreciation to all the B.A.R. readers who supported us. You are part of a broad coalition of organizations, neighborhood groups, and individuals from throughout the city who all contributed to the success of the Boulevard campaign.

Robin F. Levitt
San Francisco**Catholic Knight hoodlums**

We should not be too surprised that the Catholic Church, in the person, actions, and voice of the Most Arch-conservative Reverend William Levada, would believe that the Knight initiative would meaningfully protect families or marriage.

Gay marriages do not, of course, threaten "the family," "marriage," "the church," or "Christianity," – not even a single little bit.

The church's wasteful expenditure of even a dollar to support religiously bigoted and discriminatory political programs says nothing good about the church and its mission of helping the spiritually needy and the socially, politically, economically, and environmentally disenfranchised.

Rather than spending precious – and tax-exempt – money, time, and resources on preventing the fair and equal treatment of all Americans as guaranteed under our system of laws, one would rather see the church putting all that energy toward helping the needy rather than keeping people needy – spiritually and otherwise – and working toward fighting bigotry and discrimination, and leaving the divvying up of the worthy and moral from the unworthy and immoral – to God.

When faith (in hell) fails them, look for the "moral," the "faithful," and the "religious" to use the existential politics of mortals to impose their theology on others. Compulsory Catholic Christianity, anyone?

There are many things the church and we all could be doing to help families and marriages, but don't look for this to happen beyond the mere political lip service that will be laid on thick and heavy between now and the March 2000 election. In the meantime, our families will continue to work harder and longer and more productively for a smaller share of the national economic pie (as we have for the last 30 years under a top-down Republican capitalist regime of technical free trade), while the pious carry their ball down field in support of the "conservative" battle plans in the cultural war.

Rand Knox
San Rafael, CA

Vermont Democrat wants to be first openly gay U.S. senator

by Wayne Friday

Ed Flanagan, Vermont's state auditor, will be a candidate for the U.S. Senate next year, and, if elected, would become the first openly gay or lesbian member of that body. Flanagan, a 48-year-old attorney, was first elected to his state auditor position in 1992, making him the nation's first openly gay statewide elected official. Flanagan has been re-elected three times since then and will seek the seat of incumbent Republican U.S. Senator James Jeffords, a political moderate, in the 2000 general election.

Because Flanagan has won statewide office in Vermont four times, most political observers in that state consider his candidacy next year to be very competitive and he is given at least a 50-50 chance of unseating Jeffords.

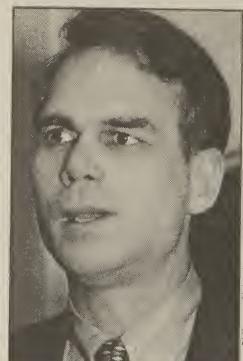
Flanagan says his voice in the U.S. Senate would be one for everyone who believes in equality, and a voice against bigotry, intolerance, and the elected allies of the anti-gay religious right. These days, he is busy putting together a first-rate campaign team, raising funds, and already picking up important endorsements for what he predicts will be a hard-fought campaign.

Jeffords, the Republican incumbent, barely won re-election the last time he won, taking just over 50 percent of the statewide vote, so Democratic leaders in Vermont, with a candidate like Flanagan as their nominee, feel they have a real chance of taking the seat for the Democrats next November.

Flanagan, a liberal with strong ties to national gay-rights organizations, is expected to get help from those groups as his candidacy moves forward, but he also needs help from gays and lesbians across the country to finance his campaign. Though he says that Vermont is a tolerant, progressive state that is clearly open to electing a qualified gay candidate to the Senate, Flanagan is aware that Republican Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and the conservative establishment will spend heavily to stop an openly gay Democrat from defeating one of their own.

Republicans see Flanagan as a serious threat in Vermont, and have pledged the "millions of dollars" that they think they will need to deny his victory.

Jeffords is seen as vulnerable for several reasons, including his support for the mean-spirited conservative Senate leadership and his willingness to toe the party line in casting the deciding vote for a \$792 billion tax cut for the wealthy, jeopardizing the future of Social Security and Medicare. Jeffords is also opposed to real HMO reform and a "patients bill of rights," as well as the Head Start program and increasing the minimum wage. Jeffords' positions on several other issues



Vermont Auditor Ed Flanagan

are unpopular in Vermont, and that makes him one of the most vulnerable Republicans for the Senate next year.

Flanagan has in fact picked up support of some gay Republicans in his quest for the Senate; these people see him as a man who will be a forceful, articulate, and courageous voice for gay and lesbian Americans, and for all who oppose discrimination. He points out that this coun-

try has elected 106 Congresses in its history and not once has an openly gay voice been raised in the Senate. Well, when the next Congress takes office, we can change that forever, just as other strong voices have ignited powerful, lasting change. Ed Flanagan needs financial help; he is not a wealthy man, but is a man who we need in the Senate. I'm sending him a check and you can help by mailing him a check – no matter how large or small – to Flanagan for U.S. Senate, P.O. Box 209, Burlington, Vermont 05402 (www.flanagan2000.org). Let's really make history next year by sending an openly gay person to the U.S. Senate for the first time ever.

Politics and people

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein on the December 14 runoff election: "Willie Brown is the best choice for mayor; serving San Francisco as mayor was one of the toughest jobs I have ever had. It is precisely because I know just how difficult the job can be that I support Willie Brown for mayor."

Feinstein on the race for district attorney: "Bill Fazio clearly is the best choice for district attorney; he will restore professionalism and integrity to that office. Join me on December 14 in voting for Bill Fazio for San Francisco District Attorney."

About the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, a newspaper that wouldn't endorse the more progressive Deputy Public Defender Matt Gonzalez for district attorney last month, now speaking editorially, telling Gonzalez what he should do as far as endorsing in the December 14 runoff for the DA's race. The *Guardian* also "spoke" to former Mayor Frank

Jordan, a man they've never had a good word for, suggesting what he does in terms of endorsing a candidate in the mayor's race runoff.

Those gay and lesbian Republicans supporting the anti-gay George W. Bush for their party's presidential nomination should know that while appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press* recently, Bush was told that Arizona Senator John McCain met with the predominantly gay Log Cabin Republicans and was then asked directly if he (Bush) would agree to meet with them. Bush promptly snapped, "Probably not." Bush also said he would oppose any national hate crimes law that included "sexual orientation," referring to it as "special treatment" if such a bill included protection for homosexuals.

California state Republican leaders are reportedly very worried about the recent defection of arch-conservative Pat Buchanan to the Reform Party. Buchanan is said to have a core of about 6 percent of state Republicans who will likely follow him – not by changing their registration to the Reform Party, but by following him with their votes no matter what line he runs on; a loss of that many Republican voters in the state could be enough to make the difference in terms of whether Bush or Vice President Al Gore carries the state next November.

As for those who know former San Franciscan Jim Mangia, the openly gay secretary of the national Reform Party, and wonder what he thinks of the homophobic Buchanan as a candidate of his party, Mangia recently told Dick Rosengarten, publisher of the respected *CALPEEK* newsletter, that he could not support Buchanan for that party's presidential nod unless "he denounces his social conservatism and moves beyond his right-wing ideology."

Governor Gray Davis is reportedly going all out for Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl in the March 2000 primary fight for the state Senate seat being vacated by retiring Senator Tom Hayden in the 23rd District (San Fernando Valley). Kuehl, the first openly lesbian member elected to the Assembly, faces a tough primary battle with Assemblywoman Wally Knox, a Democrat whose most prominent supporter is Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, a Republican.

In Los Angeles, where one's homosexuality was formerly kept a secret if they were in politics, some of City Councilman Joel Wachs' political opponents have taken to complaining that he recently came out of the closet to help his chances of becoming mayor of that city in 2001. Go figure.

A reader from Houston wrote to remind me that openly lesbian Annise Parker was easily re-elected to the City Council there last month.

In a runoff election November 20 in New Orleans, Larry Bagneris, a Democrat, became the first gay African American ever elected to the Louisiana Legislature.

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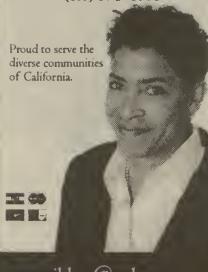
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by Dale Carpenter

My dictionary defines "racism" as "racial prejudice or discrimination." If that's right, there's no other word for what happened recently at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) annual "Creating Change" conference, held in Oakland. By supporting it, NGLTF has crossed the line of common decency and skirted the boundary of the law.

On Saturday, November 13, I showed up for a conference workshop provocatively entitled, "Challenging Issues of Race, Class, and Gender Within the Movement: How to Work With Our Allies Without Killing Them

First." The conference guidebook promised that the workshop would address "the links among economic, social, and cultural attacks on People of Color within the LGBT movement."

About 20 men and women of various races gathered, one of the workshop co-chairs announced that the program guide had mistakenly omitted a notice that this session was to be for "people of color" only — one of several sessions so designated at the conference. Hearing this, the approximately six white women and men present got up from their chairs and walked silently out of the room.

Stunned, I asked aloud if I was being told to leave because I am white. "Yes," answered the co-chair quickly and without elaboration. I left. A sign was then posted outside the door to the room that read, in large Magic Marker: "The Workshop 'Working w/Our Allies' is part of the people of color track. Hence, it's open to people of color only. Thank you." The word "only" was underlined twice for emphasis. The irony of excluding allies from a session about "Working with our Allies" was evidently lost on the leaders of the workshop.

I then approached NGLTF Communications Director David Elliott, a capable and articulate spokesperson by any standard, who confirmed that the task force backs race-based exclusion for some workshops at the conference. Why? I asked. "When one of our coalition allies requests a safe space we will respect that request," he responded.

"Safe" from whom, I wondered. From like-minded whites who want only to help fight continuing racial prejudice? It turns out that "safe space" is an Orwellian euphemism employed since at least the 1970s to justify all manner of race- and sex-based exclusion at events around the country. It has been used, for example, to exclude men from the annual Texas Lesbian Conference and to exclude both men and transgendered women from the annual "Womyn's" music festival in Michigan.

Would the task force support a presenter who allowed only white people to attend? No, responded Elliott, because "we're not dealing with an equal playing field." Well then, under this leveling no-whites policy, would NGLTF support the exclusion of Jews (a group targeted for racist genocide in this century)? I asked. There was a long pause. "I don't know the answer to that," he said.

OK, well, is NGLTF concerned

that it may have violated federal and state laws prohibiting racial discrimination? I continued. After all, the event was held at a taxpayer-funded convention center and NGLTF opened the conference to anyone willing to pay the \$200 registration fee. An even longer pause ensued. "We've never thought of that before," Elliott finally answered.

NGLTF could argue, of course, that it is a private organization legally entitled to include or exclude anyone it wants on any basis it wants, "discriminatory" or not. But then that would sound uncomfortably like the arguments we hear these days from the gay-excluding Boy Scouts — arguments NGLTF has harshly criticized.

Back inside the actual workshop, a less high-minded defense of excluding whites was heard. (I know this because I obtained an audiotape of the proceedings.) When a couple of attendees questioned why whites were not allowed in, the response was frank: "I think it's a good learning experience, even though it is rude, that they [whites] experience what we experience," answered one participant. An eye-for-an-eye, anyone?

Another attendee asserted that the leaders of NGLTF, a "white-run organization" in his view, "would ask the white people in the room to leave because that was their [NGLTF's] commitment

to being anti-racist." War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength, and racism is anti-racism. "We ought to allow white people to do their work," he continued, "and their work is to give us space. And it's compensatory."

I don't contend that racial discrimination has historically inflicted anywhere near the damage on whites that it has on racial minorities. It hasn't. But I do contend that, wherever and against whomsoever it is enforced, it needlessly divides and engenders resentment. It denies the humanity of the person it is practiced against, whatever the color of that person's skin. It's especially distressing that the left, which led the fight to end racial segregation in the 1950s and 1960s, is today either silent about racial double standards, or worse, actively supports them.

In the last 50 years, the gay civil rights movement has come full circle. We have gone from a movement that excluded people on the basis of race, to one that embraced racial non-discrimination, to one that established racial quotas to ensure minority representation, to one that excludes people on the basis of race. Dress it up and excuse it however you will, it is fragmenting us, and therefore weakening us. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

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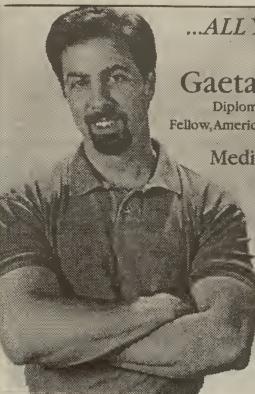
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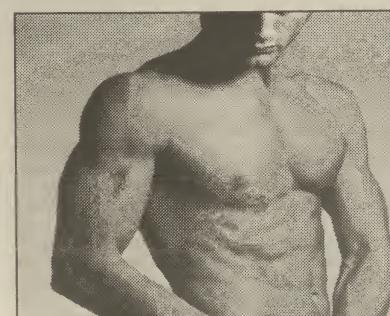
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The power of the bulge

by Jane Warner

California Federal Bank, 444 Castro, November 26, 4:18 p.m.: A man approached a teller and handed her a note that said, "Give me the money." He pointed to a bulge in his waistband that looked like the outline of a gun. The teller handed him the cash in her drawer and the man fled northbound on Castro toward Market Street.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 20s, 6 feet tall, weighing 160 pounds, with brown hair, clean shaven, wearing a green cap, light green shirt, and khaki pants.

Freshly squeezed

Jamba Juice, 2014 Market, November 22, 9:20 p.m.: A clerk came from the back room and saw a suspect opening the cash register. When she asked what he was doing, the suspect pulled a black handgun from his waistband and told her, "Stay quiet or I'll shoot." The suspect took \$200 and ran out of the store, down the street, and into the underground Muni. Responding police were unable to locate him.

The suspect is described as a white male, 25 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing 155 pounds, with blond hair, a mustache and goatee, and a tear drop tattoo underneath his left eye. He was wearing a black baseball cap, black nylon jacket, green shorts, and carrying a black shoulder bag.

Bottomed out

Image Leather, 2199 Market, November 23, 7:30 a.m.: When the owner arrived for work in the morning, he found the front and side windows to his store broken. Items reported taken included a leather jacket, leather cap, and a donation money jar. Total losses were estimated at \$2,000. Suspect is unknown.

See-saw

Outside of Bay View Bank, 433 Castro, November 27, 4:30 p.m.: While withdrawing cash, a woman rested her purse on the edge of the ATM. While the purse was teetering there, a man came by and snatched it and started running. The woman screamed and several passersby were able to wrestle the purse away from him. The suspect kept running. An officer saw the thief coming toward her at 18th and Castro streets, and with the help of a store owner, tackled him to the ground and arrested him. Booked for theft from a person and an outstanding warrant was Timothy Brown, 43.

Under One Roof

◀ page 5

foods and browse the large collection of holiday gifts available at the store. Wines from area vineyards will also be available for purchase. The event is from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Under One Roof has raised more than \$5 million dollars for AIDS organizations since it was founded in 1990. Special hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, through the holiday season. ▼

For more info on Under One Roof's wine tasting benefit, call (415) 503-2300. For info on the Pride Collaborative events, call (415) 439-4272.

Up in smoke

19th and Collingwood, November 22, 11:30 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a man setting a shopping cart on fire. Upon seeing police, the man said, "Fuck you," and threw a pocket knife at an officer, who ducked out of the way. The man was wrestled to the ground and arrested. Booked for aggravated assault on a police officer was Roger Woodward, 57.

Frosted fakes

Various Castro bars, November 23, 11 p.m.: Once again, counterfeit money is circulating around the Castro. Police received several calls from area bars on November 23 reporting a couple attempting to pass off the money. Daddy's bar reported a young Hispanic woman, described as being 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 100 pounds,

with her hair pulled back in a ponytail, who asked for change for a \$10 bill. The bartender gave it to her, realizing only later that the bill was a phony. Several other bars within the hour reported the same woman attempting to scam them, and one establishment reported that a young Hispanic male, about 5 feet tall and weighing 140 pounds, approached the bar. A search for the couple was unsuccessful.

Concealed Camels
Outside of 1 Church Street,

November 23, 3 a.m.: While walking past the Daphne Funeral Home, a victim was jumped by three men hiding in the bushes who wrestled him to the ground and held a butcher knife to his face. They rummaged through his pockets, stealing some change and a pack of cigarettes.

The suspects are described as Hispanic males, one was 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighing 225 pounds, and the other two were smaller, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds. All wore dark clothing. ▼

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New AIDS play uses real-life hook

by Terry Beswick

People diagnosed with life-threatening diseases use a wide variety of coping mechanisms to meet the daily challenges of living with their condition, as well as its treatments.

Joseph C. Wilson uses the stage. And in the process, he hopes to shed some light for others on the "new way of life" faced by people living with HIV/AIDS.

In his new dramatic musical, *Hard Candy*, opening this Sunday, December 5 in the Theater Rhinoceros Studio in San Francisco, Wilson says he mostly drew on his own experiences as a person living with AIDS.

He also employs a common dramatic device, borrowing a story from the headlines, and using it as a hook to grab the curiosity and attention of his audience. Originally written as a screenplay, Wilson's script and the true story apparently share one central element: a bone marrow transplant from a baboon to a gay man with AIDS.

From there, the two part company.

Hard Candy capitalizes on the experiences of Jeff Getty, a Bay Area AIDS activist and *Bay Area Reporter* contributor, who skyrocketed into the media spotlight



The cast of *Hard Candy*, a new AIDS musical that opens this Sunday.

a few years ago after volunteering for the risky baboon experiment which, it was hoped, would counter the immune system destruction wrought by HIV, or at least help scientists learn something useful about treating AIDS.

In Wilson's version, the subject of the research is told that he was chosen for the study through a lottery. But he and his therapy group buddies soon discover that he was not randomly chosen at all. In fact, he is "no more than a pawn in a game where others are in control."

The greedy pharmaceutical sponsor spuriously mixes the patient's blood with one of its patented drugs – in the process, stumbling onto a cure for AIDS. The evil drug company then plots and schemes to make big bucks, with little concern, naturally, for fast and equitable access to their new panacea.

"It [the play] shows the real struggle that many people with HIV disease encounter on a daily basis – the ones that the media hasn't glorified – homelessness, poverty, persecution, fear, loneliness, loss and rejection," according to advance publicity.

For his part, Getty says he's uncomfortable with Wilson's twist on his story, but is "not really down" on the play, which he has not seen.

"I don't like the way it portrays me as being a victim of pharmaceutical companies," Getty told the B.A.R. "The real study had nothing to do with pharmaceutical companies."

But Wilson says that *Hard*

Candy makes no attempt at realism. With its song-and-dance format, he says he hopes to entertain, while educating people about the "full-time" job of living with HIV. And, by sharing his fictionalized story, he also hopes to inspire those who are infected.

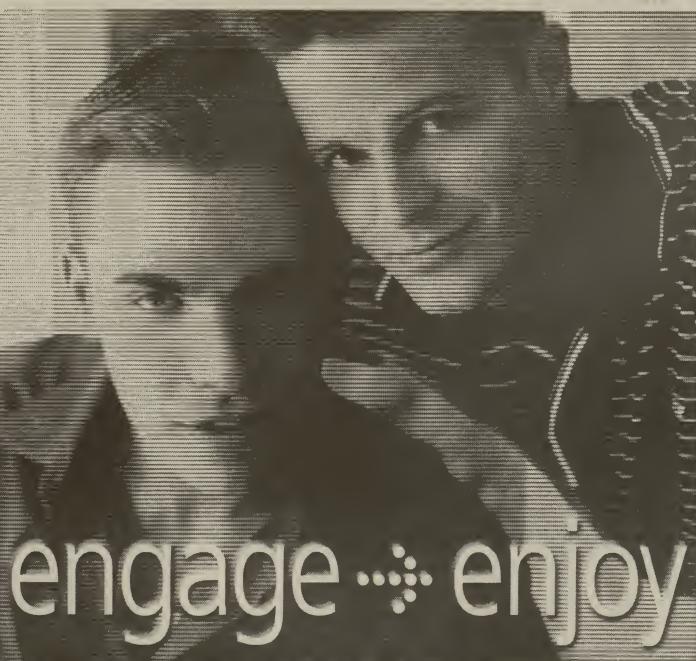
"I'm trying to educate, to stop new infections, and to bring people who are infected out of their disability shell," Wilson told the B.A.R.

The workshop production is directed by Natalie Ferraro and features a cast of 11. Part of the Emerging Playwright Series of the Pieces of the Quilt theater project of the Artist Alliance Against AIDS (AAAA), *Hard Candy* also received production support from the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, the Alma Delfina Group, and the Keith Haring AIDS Memorial Chapel Project.

With the support of AAAA, Wilson plans to take his show on the road to reach audiences in high schools, colleges, prisons, and other venues.

As for the title for his show, the new playwright explains that "HIV is hard, but the rest of life is sweet." ▼

Hard Candy plays December 5-8 in the Theater Rhinoceros Studio at 1926 16th Street between Mission and South Van Ness. A \$10 donation is requested, though no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For reservations and show times, call (415) 487-7633.



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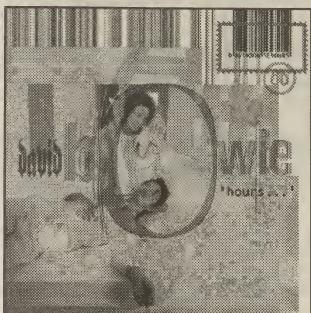
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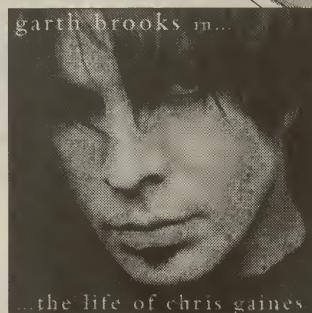
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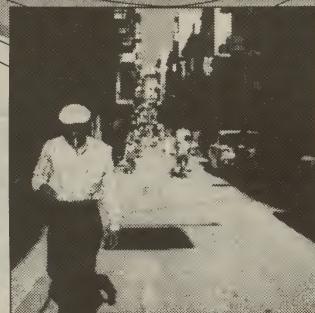
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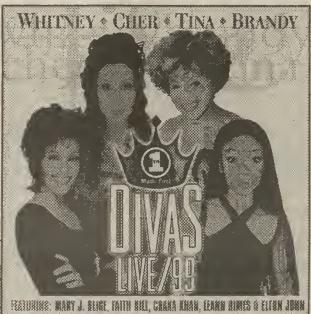
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The end of an era at Finocchio's



Marc Geller

After 63 years of the finest in drag queen cabaret, Finocchio's in San Francisco's North Beach closed last Saturday, November 27, when performers took to the stage for the last show at the club "where the most beautiful women are men." Owner Eve Finocchio, widow of founder Joe Finocchio, said her landlord raised the rent from \$4,000 to \$6,000, and added that the club had smaller audiences in recent years. Many gay drag queens performed at the club over the years, as well as straight, married men who performed as "male actresses," to use Eve Finocchio's preferred term.

Processing domestic partner registrations

by Boyce Hinman,
Lambda Letters Project

This year the California Legislature passed landmark legislation (AB26) by Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, to establish a statewide domestic partner registry. Same gender couples, and opposite gender couples who are senior citizens, will be allowed to register their domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State's offices in Sacramento or in its regional offices around the state. A source at the Secretary of State's office says they hope to be ready to do this on January 1.

The addresses and phone numbers of area offices of the Secretary of State are listed. It is suggested that people call the Secretary of State's office before going there to be sure they are ready to process registrations. If you are not near any of the offices, you may call (916) 653-4984 and ask that domestic partner registration forms be mailed to you. The forms will be available after January 1, 2000.

It will also be possible to register a domestic partnership with the county clerk's office. At this point the Lambda Letters Project

signed into law in October.

AB26 mandates the California Secretary of State to establish a statewide domestic partner registry. Same gender couples, and opposite gender couples who are senior citizens, will be allowed to register their domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State's offices in Sacramento or in its regional offices around the state. A source at the Secretary of State's office says they hope to be ready to do this on January 1.

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Growing numbers of private employers are offering domestic partner health insurance to their employees. This allows employees to add their partners to the employer-provided health insurance plan. Many employers who offer the coverage have required that employees register with local government in locations where these governments have established do-

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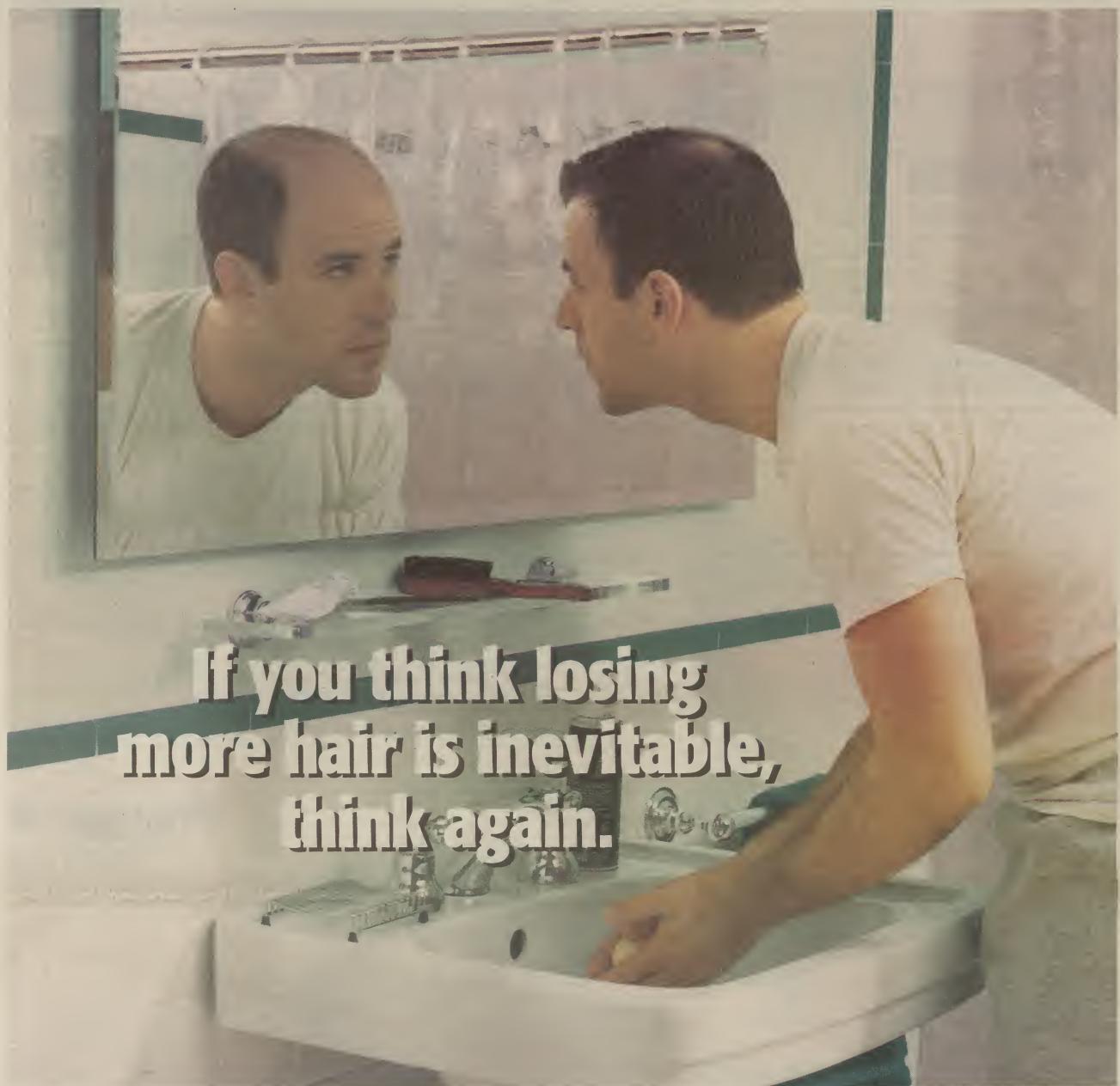
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*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men. Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair – not just “peach fuzz” – and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA.

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Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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PROPECIA® is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this information before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. A ll men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel**** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do NOT take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will NOT work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Patient Information about PROPECIA*

(Pro-pee-sha)

Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in MEN ONLY and should not be taken by women or children.

- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer.

If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you.

Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS SUMMARY YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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* **Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215.**

Reform Party's strange alliance of Buchanan and Fulani

by Bob Roehr

Politics makes strange bedfellows, goes the saying. None are stranger than the embrace of Pat Buchanan and Lenora Fulani in quest of the Reform Party nomination for president. This unholy alliance is wedded by the lure of a \$12 million pot of gold in federal campaign financing that awaits the Reform nominee.

Buchanan is the all too well-known right-wing homophobe and general misanthrope. He recently dropped his allegiance to the Republican Party when it became apparent that its primary voters were not warming to his recycled negativity.

But who is Lenora Fulani? She was a leader and 1988 presidential candidate of the New Alliance Party (NAP), an authoritarian group of the left. "Fulani comes out of an authoritarian psychoanalytic cult that organized itself into a political party," said Ken Sherrill. He is professor of political science at Hunter College in New York, a scholar of gays in politics, and a longtime observer of the NAP.

Its rhetoric promoted black nationalism and what could be seen as "gay nationalism." Fulani and shadowy leader Fred Newman also ran a string of "reparative therapy" centers that paral-

leled the political structure. The programs are similar to ones run by the Church of Scientology.

The NAP was one of the many small factions that folded itself into the Reform Party over the last several years. The "Fulani faction" is one of the most organized and disciplined segments within the generally unorganized Reform Party. Earlier this year Fulani seriously challenged for the position

party's principal elected official.

The pundits fell all over themselves in denouncing the alliance. "It is pure opportunism on the part of Fulani and Buchanan. This is where the left and the right have each gone off so far over the edge that they have fallen off and they meet," said liberal columnist Eleanor Clift.

While the *New York Post* editorialized from the right, "Buchanan is no longer a conservative, he is a

"Buchanan is no longer a conservative, he is a radical allied with the worst elements of American radicalism."

of national party chairman.

"In traditional terms, Pat Buchanan stands for all the things that black progressives such as myself revile," Fulani told a November 11 news conference in Washington. She said that she was endorsing Buchanan "because we have a common interest in overthrowing the traditional political terms."

Buchanan wants Fulani's disciplined cadre within the Reform Party for his nomination struggle. His main roadblock is the vehement opposition of Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura, the

radical allied with the worst elements of American radicalism."

Sherrill added, "We knew that there were two people who craved attention and who made their living by virtue of the renown that came from being candidates for public office. In fact, they have been dining off of the gullibility of alienated voters for decades."

"While it might strike some of their supporters as a criminal betrayal, I think it's a marriage made in heaven that will reveal much of Buchanan and Fulani's true nature," Sherrill said. ▼



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Oakland couple

◀ page 1

is asking anyone who is interested to call her at (510) 451-0303.

When police allowed Reynolds into the home to retrieve the dog, she noticed a partially eaten pumpkin pie on the kitchen table along with a carton of milk.

Neighbors told the B.A.R. the couple occasionally had loud arguments but nothing they considered serious. "When they would argue, it would be like *Sanford and Son*," said neighbor Fred Neely with a smile. Another neighbor who lived two doors down from the couple said she knew they had occasionally gotten into arguments, but she didn't believe any domestic violence was involved in their relationship.

Like other neighbors, Neely said the couple was well thought of in the neighborhood and accepted for being a gay couple. Neely said Lothammer was quiet and reserved but Esparaza-Noyola was more outgoing and could often be seen gardening in the couple's front lawn or walking the dogs. Neely added that Esparaza-Noyola, whom he knew as "Frisco," didn't have a job but ran

a lot of errands and was often seen working around the house.

"He was pretty much a house husband," said Harper, adding that Esparaza-Noyola emigrated from Mexico to the United States and spoke English well. Harper said that although she doesn't want to speak ill of the dead, Esparaza-Noyola often drank and she speculates that alcohol and drugs may have precipitated what happened.

Harper told the B.A.R. she doesn't know whether to believe the deaths were a result of a murder-suicide or a double suicide, but said she's convinced what happened in the home was not something that was planned. "They weren't two people planning on dying," said Harper.

By Monday night, November

29, someone had used yellow police tape to fasten a small bouquet of flowers to the chain link fence surrounding the couple's front lawn. Signs on the fence put up by the couple warned of blocking the driveway and warned of the dogs. One showed a growling dog's face with the caption: "Trespassers will be eaten." The front lawn was filled with roses that had recently been planted by Esparaza-Noyola.

This Christmas, the couple's home will serve as a dark reminder to everyone in the neighborhood of the couple's tragic deaths. Around this time each year, Esparaza-Noyola would elaborately decorate the house and front lawn with Christmas lights. Past displays have included a nativity scene and a snowman. ▼

Lambda Letters

◀ page 4

mestic partner registries. Now those employers will probably require the employees to register their domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State's office or with the county clerk's office as provided by AB26. State and local governments that offer domestic partner benefits will also require such registration.

In addition to signing AB26, Davis voted for domestic partner benefits, for employees of the University of California, when the U.C. regents voted on that issue. So it is expected that the state will offer domestic partner benefits to its employees. (Note: The University of California employees are in a separate system than other state employees. U.C. employees got domestic partner benefits about a year ago.)

Domestic partner benefits cannot be given to state employees who are represented by unions unless their union contracts call for such benefits. A source from the California State Employees Association (CSEA) says that all CSEA contracts already contain the necessary wording. So, it is expected that domestic partner benefits will become available to their members (including retired CSEA members) early in the year 2000. These employees and retired persons will be required to register their domestic partnerships prior to applying for the health benefits.

State employees represented by other unions should check with their unions about getting the benefits. Local government employees and retired persons should also check with their unions or personnel offices.

This information has been

provided by the Lambda Letters Project, California's oldest statewide lobbying organization representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. The project also lobbies on HIV/AIDS issues, issues of concern to people of color, and women's issues. ▼

For more information, write Lambda Letters Project 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608, call (916) 965-6851, or e-mail LambdaLP@aol.com.

Where to go for DP forms

The following is a list of regional locations for the Secretary of State's office:

Secretary of State's office
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7244

2497 West Shaw Avenue
Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93711
(559) 243-2100

300 South Spring Street
Room 12513
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1233
(213) 897-3062

1350 Front Street
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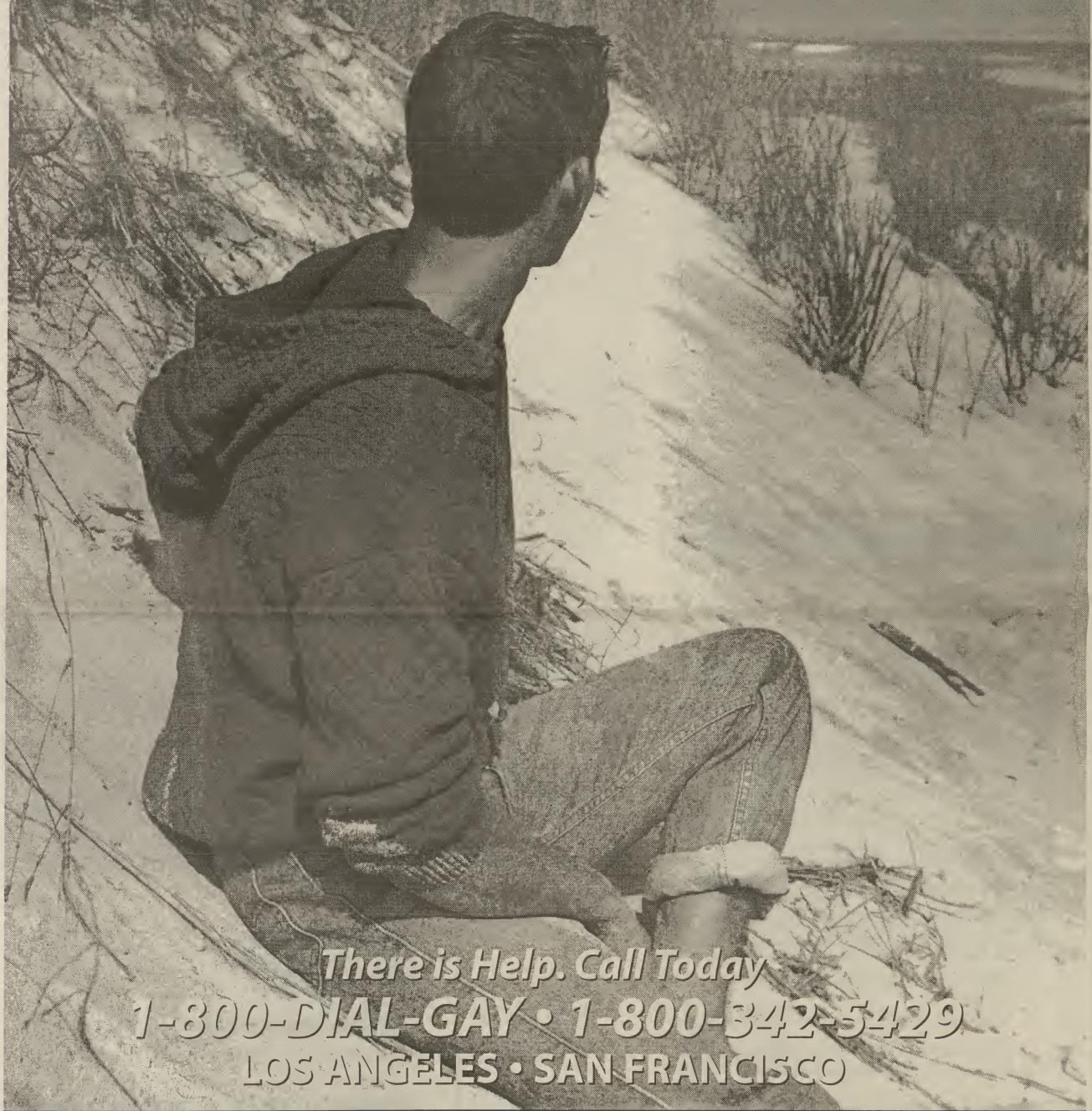
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Photo by Gregg Day

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* 2 NRTIs include: AZT, 3TC, Combivir®, d4t or ddI

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Recycle d4T or ddI?

Toxicities may outweigh benefit

by Jeff Getty, ACT/UP
Golden Gate Writers Pool

An interesting and unexpected development has come to light recently in advanced AIDS patient care. New phenotypic and genotypic tests which measure HIV viral resistance to all existing AIDS drugs, are turning up an unusual finding: d4T, and sometimes ddI are appearing as drugs that might work against a heavily pre-treated individual's virus strain. What's more, these results are occurring in patients who have taken d4T and ddI previously for years at a time. So the question arises: Can patients expect good results if they recycle d4T or ddI by combining them with previously unused drugs or new experimental drugs now available such as PMPA or Abt-378?

At first, many AIDS patients and their doctors were very skeptical of the new resistance results. Many felt there was something wrong with the resistance assays and that these drugs were simply not fitting into the test's parameters. For example, d4T might trigger a different unmeasured resistance mechanism which causes the virus to mutate around it. "Cells could be pumping out the drug early," said Dr. Michelle Roland, a University of California, San Francisco researcher at San Francisco General Hospital. Still,

the phenotype tests, which actually challenge a patient's virus in-vitro (in the lab) with various drugs, are indicating that d4T and ddI are effectively killing the bug. If the virus was resistant, then why did it die? One reason could be that the concentration of drug in the test is much higher than what could be achieved in the body. Or it could be simply that the drugs are still potent and could be of some use.

So if the tests are correct and the drugs still have an ability to kill the virus, can we add them to new experimental regimes and expect good results? Dr. Robert Scott, an Oakland clinician with a large AIDS practice thinks it might be worth a try. "These drugs are turning out to be quite resilient," he said. At least one of Scott's patients will be recycling d4T in the coming weeks. Roland and others are reluctant to believe there could be any benefit. But many patients have no options left. "Still, I go ahead and use d4T (in this way) because I have not seen any evidence to say that it will not work," Roland remarked. But recent published findings about d4T and ddI toxicities are quietly taming any enthusiasm for these drugs.

Toxicities and mitochondria dysfunction

Last week, following federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) toxicity findings, Bristol-Myers Squibb issued warnings that d4T and ddI could cause pancreatitis and death. According to a warning letter which went out to physicians all over the U.S., "Didanosine, stavudine and hydroxyurea should be suspended in patients with suspected pancreatitis. Reinstatement of stavudine and/or hydroxyurea after a diagnosis of confirmed pancreatitis should be undertaken with caution. Didanosine should be permanently discontinued in patients with confirmed pancreatitis." Many longtime AIDS patients recall early episodes of this sometimes fatal problem when these

drugs were first released. At the time the patients who experienced problems tended to be only the very sickest and most advanced. Or so it seemed. But the new warnings came on the heels of a couple of deaths involving patients with high T-cells and relatively good health.

Such toxicities should give pause to patients considering recycling either of these drugs, and the news only seems to be getting worse. At a recent workshop on lipodystrophy (the unwanted fat redistribution and that undesirable "AIDS look"), data from past European studies was discussed. Some of these studies implicated d4T as a potential culprit in causing lipid dysfunction.

From a report written by Ellen S. Engelson about the workshop, which can be found at www.HIVandHepatitis.com, she summarized Dr. Kathy Mulligan's report as follows: "A study from France (St. Marc et al, 1999), where PIs were introduced later and less frequently than in the U.S., found fat redistribution was associated with d4T. In Italy (Gervasoni et al, AIDS 13:465, 1999) there are also fewer people on PIs, and in a group of women with only 14 percent on PIs, fat redistribution was significantly associated with 3TC and d4T. A study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted at eight sites and with 1,077 subjects, found fat redistribution to be associated with d4T and indinavir, age, duration of HIV, lowest CD4 count and the rate of rise in CD4 counts."

What is causing lipodystrophy? The latest theory appeared in an article just published in the *Lancet* medical journal, (Kees Brinkman et al, *Lancet*; 354, 1112-15, 1999). In the article endocrinologists from Amsterdam theorize that NRTI (the family of drugs that includes d4T and ddI) treatment results in the depletion of mtDNA and mtDNA-encoded proteins and dysfunctional mi-

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Randy Galterio

Armando "Randy" Galterio, 47, gardener, baker and dog lover, died November 21 in San Francisco after a prolonged illness.

Randy was diagnosed with Lupus in his 20s and knew he would

face continuing medical challenges. Nonetheless he embraced life with great courage and an independent spirit, following passions for horticulture, dogs, food, wine, and current events.

A natural entrepreneur, he was proud of his involvement with the San Francisco Renaissance. His businesses

included garden maintenance and G! Foods, a mail-order bakery for gluten-free products.

A native New Yorker, Randy lived in Greenwich Village during the Stonewall era. In the 1970s, he moved to San Francisco and then to rural El Dorado County, where he pursued a quiet country life. Returning to San Francisco a decade later, he met his partner Lewis with whom he lived since 1991.

Lanky and bearded, Randy was well-known to dog owners in Dolores Park, where he exercised his dogs Bo and Fred.

Randy is survived by his partner Lewis Gartenberg, dogs Bo and Fred, and the many people touched by his sincerity, decency and unfailing kindness. A service will be held at 1 p.m. December 11 at the San Francisco Zen Center, 300 Page St. at Laguna.

ACT UP

◀ previous page

tochondria. The mitochondria are like little energy-producing furnaces that keep a cell functional and perky. Mitochondria dysfunction could very well be the cause of lipodystrophy, since similar symptoms are seen in patients with inherited mitochondrial dysfunction. And in one study mentioned in the *Lancet* article, mitochondrial problems were seen in patients on d4T therapy alone. d4T might not be the only drug that causes this problem; but it seems likely to be a prime suspect at this point.

In the *Lancet* article there were the usual disclaimers saying that it was still early and more testing needed to be done, etc. Mulligan – a leading expert on the subject – is an endocrinologist who has been following AIDS wasting and other endocrine problems for years. At the lipo workshop, Mulligan was hesitant to condemn d4T outright. She said that it was

still too early to point a finger at any of the suspected drugs. But when these potential toxicities are combined with the pancreatitis fatality hazard, and the fact that patients who would consider recycling drugs are most likely late-stage AIDS sufferers, the risks become ever higher.

The company line

According to Bristol-Myers Squibb's Dr. Robert Gross, associate director of immunology and clinical trials, company genotypic studies showed a reduced ability for d4T and ddI to work in multi-drug resistant virus, but that there did remain some level of efficacy. While he stated that Bristol-Myers Squibb had no official position on d4T recycling and that there were no studies to test the idea, he said, "One should assume that in a regime where there are no other options, it (recycling d4T) might be a good thing." When asked about the company's position on the toxicities, he said they were actively searching through data from previous trials to find more

information. "We have started two prospective studies to look at where patients have ended up in terms of lipo. We are looking at patients who were on these drugs for over a year to see if they had lipo changes," he said. BMS will most likely report the findings at the 13th International Conference on AIDS to be held in Durban, South Africa next July.

Finally, Roland has never been known to be a doctor who takes big risks with her patients. Yet she stated that she would prescribe the drugs in no-option situations. Given the recent findings about d4T and ddI (for that matter all the drugs in the NRTI family) it shows just how desperate late-stage patients and their doctors have become. "Our biggest limitation is cross resistance. It's (d4T) not saving the day, you've got a big Bastille, and you need lots of ammo," Roland said. The option to recycle d4T and ddI should be carefully weighed. And certainly any patient who does so should be followed very closely for early signs of drug-related harm. ▼

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Out for kicks

by Jim Provenzano

Under the sway of palm trees, the San Francisco Spikes came in second in their division at the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association's (IGLFA) 1999 World Cup Finals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida November 16-20.

Coach Tom Murphy, originally from New Zealand, has been with the Spikes since 1991, and played for years "until my knees crapped out," he said.

This is a common chronic injury for the sport, he said. "We put 'em through a lot. You're running at high speeds and changing direction."

Since easing off on his patellas, Murphy's been coaching for the last two years. The Spikes play as part of the Marin soccer league every Saturday from May through October. They competed through this season, not wanting to relax before the big finals in Florida last month.

"The difference between just kicking the ball around and really competing are worlds apart," said Murphy. "You can lose your touch so quickly."

With qualifying matches, then semi-finals and finals, "There were some really good matches," Murphy said. "The quality of gay soccer across the board is getting higher. Everybody's improving."

Much heralded was the first-time appearance of the Argentine team, whom Murphy called "the nicest bunch of guys." While Group B is more recreational, Group A's more competitive division includes the high-ranking New York, and the Argentines.

Al had six teams competing matches over the weekend. The Spikes were first to beat Munich, then lost to San Diego. Murphy's reason? They competed the morning after having participated in the Miss Spikes Universe 2000 pageant, a tasteful drag pageant that's sort of like the popular gay swim event Pink Flamingos – but in cleats.

Team creamed

In the next two games, the Spikes beat Los Angeles, then Atlanta. In semi-finals against New York the Spikes defeated New York 2-0 with an amazing two goals completed by men that Murphy lovingly described as "the fossils," (the team's senior members).

In finals, the Spikes lost to Cologne's team 2-0.

According to IGLFA Secretary Ian Cranna, the tournament is now an established social and sporting event in the gay soccer calendar. It grew up in America out of the first Gay Games.

Europeans players didn't attend World Cups until 1991; the first (English) team followed in 1992. "Since then," Cranna said, "gay soccer has grown particularly in Germany, of which Cream Team Cologne – this year's winners – are the best. European teams have since come to dominate the tournament, although Los Angeles did produce a solid victory over London to win the event a couple of years ago."

"Apart from the registered teams from America, Canada, England, Germany and our newest members of the family, Argentina (Buenos Aires), we had individuals from as far apart as



Some Argentines angle for the ball at IGLFA's World Cup '99.

Australia, Spain, Italy, Mexico and Colombia hooking up with the various teams. We also have contacts in Africa for the future."

"We're still building the women's side of things," Cranna said.

"Unfortunately less disposable income means that women find it harder to travel. They tend to concentrate on the Gay Games events. We're working on how best to support them."

IGLFA is an entirely self-funded, volunteer organization, run by individuals who donate their time, energy and pay their own expenses.

With two co-presidents, J.C. Cummings of Washington, D.C. and Petra Drenkert of Berlin, they

do their best to coordinate international gay soccer, and to uphold and improve standards of tournaments.

Regional tournaments have been held in Atlanta, New York, Boston/Provincetown, and Germany.

The next two World Cups are scheduled for Cologne (2000) and London (2001).

Outdoor practices for the Spikes begin in April at MacAfee High School's playing fields in Twin Peaks.

Until then, on Tuesday nights, the Spikes will be playing – get this – indoor soccer at Eureka Valley Gym on Collingwood at 18th. "We use the walls as part of the court," Murphy said.

You've gotta see it, folks. It's free. Join in or watch. It beats whatever's on TV. ▼

IGLFA '99 final scores

Group B Finals

Los Angeles Eclipse 1, London Apprentices 0

Group A Finals

Cream Team Cologne 2, San Francisco Spikes 0
Berlin won the Women's final 9-2 over Philadelphia

Group A Semi-Finals

San Francisco Spikes 2, New York Ramblers A 0
Cream Team Cologne 4, Argentina 1

Third Place Play-Off

Argentina 6, New York Ramblers A 2

Group B Semi-Finals

London Apprentices 2, Philadelphia Falcons 2
(London Apprentices win 3-2 on penalty kicks after scoreless golden goal period)

Dallas Sideburns 2, Los Angeles Eclipse 2
(Los Angeles Eclipse win 1-0 on golden goal rule)

Third Place Play-Off

Dallas Sideburns 5, Philadelphia Falcons 2

FrontRunners elect board, Team SF elections Sunday

by Jim Provenzano

FrontRunners recently held its election for next year's officers. Brenda Stowers was elected president; Anne Ludwig, vice president; Tim Gaffney, secretary; and Kip Darcy was elected treasurer.

Paul Williams was named FrontRunner of the Year by this year's president, Craig Snyder. Williams has volunteered at functions throughout the year, helped with every newsletter delivery, worked at the FrontRunners water stations for both the San Francisco Marathon and the Home Depot Half

Marathon, and single-handedly catered two FrontRunners dinners.

If you're looking to have a voice in LGBT sports politics, stop by the Team SF general membership meeting this Sunday, December 5, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center in the Castro. Election of next year's board is on the agenda, as well as the donation from Cobb Mountain Spring Water owners, H. Boone Lodge and Bill Sullivan. Funds donated from Cobb Mountain will go to the Team SF Uniforms for 2002, the Athletes Assistance Fund, and to various member services such as the creation of new clubs. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Knight initiative

◀ page 1

make up their minds in the ballot booth on the basis of what's on the ballot," said Jon Davidson, supervising attorney with the western regional office of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the group that filed the complaint with the attorney general. "Undecided voters read the title and the ballot summary, and on the basis of that, decide how they will vote."

Knight and his campaign had been content with the original ballot title, the "Definition of Marriage Initiative," the formal name previously approved by the attorney general until last week's ruling.

But with his decision to give Proposition 22 a new ballot title, the Limit on Marriages initiative, Lockyer agreed with Lambda that the original title could have misled

voters into believing that the proposition sought only to reaffirm current California law — when in fact the law would be changed.

The measure, which states that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California," would in effect alter the California statute that recognizes all marriages lawfully performed in other states, even when they would be illegal if performed here. For example, California does recognize heterosexual marriages involving minors as young as 14, though minors cannot be married here.

Although same-sex marriages are legal in a few European countries, no state in the U.S. recognizes marriages between gay or lesbian couples. Therefore, same-sex couples here do not have the option of availing themselves of the rights, responsibilities, and privileges available to their heterosexual counterparts.

"What the measure is trying to

do is create a discriminatory exception," Davidson told the Bay Area Reporter. "It's trying to write discrimination into the family code, and we have a big concern that the right wing will use that to limit other rights, which they are already doing in other states." Davidson noted that conservatives are using laws banning gay marriage as legal ammunition to prevent gay couples from adopting children.

"As the attorney general determined, the Knight initiative is not about defining marriage. Nor is it, as the Knight campaign further claims, about 'defending' or 'protecting' marriage," commented Marshall. "It's about singling out gay and lesbian people for discrimination by altering California law so that gay and lesbian families have no chance at the basic rights and responsibilities afforded other loving and committed families."

Although rumored to be writ-

ing its decision now, no one can say for sure when the Vermont Supreme Court will rule on *Baker v. Vermont*, a case that will likely decide whether or not that state should be the first in the nation to legalize same-sex marriages.

Similarly, the timing of a decision on the constitutionality of gay marriage from the Hawaii Supreme Court is unknown.

But according to Davidson, either court could rule at any time.

If either state Supreme Court decides within the next three months, in the midst of the Proposition 22 campaign, the impact on the outcome of the referendum would likely be enormous.

Should either state high court rule in favor of the right of two

adults of the same sex to marry, with everything that entails, the battle over Proposition 22 would likely escalate into a political war. At least a few gay and lesbian couples can be counted on to get hitched as quickly as possible — perhaps even Knight's gay son, who has become increasingly vocal in condemning his father's homophobic campaign — and head back to California to file their joint tax returns.

Regardless, Knight's well-financed campaign — with backers in the Mormon, Catholic, and other conservative churches — can be counted on to do everything in its power to limit marriages in this state to those between a man and a woman. ▼

Youth shelter

◀ page 3

Supervisors Leslie Katz and Tom Ammiano had secured for the purpose in this year's city budget.

Hansen initially had offered to donate his building for a shelter at no cost to the city. Hansen withdrew his "free" offer in early September, saying he would need to be compensated \$2 per square foot for the 4,000 square foot building, plus taxes, insurance, and maintenance.

At the urging of the CAC, Leno recently made Hansen a counter-offer of \$1 per square foot. But late Tuesday night, Hansen rejected the

offer, and told Leno that he had other plans for his building after all.

When Leno and Katz announced Hansen's offer in early August, controversy ensued among neighbors still upset over the Eureka Valley Recreation Center project, who were concerned about the new shelter drawing crime and vagrancy to the area.

The CAC report, largely developed by neighbors of the old gym, represented their detailed terms for accepting an adult 90-day residential facility with comprehensive services at the site — rather than Leno's proposal for a drop-in shelter.

In a November 30 letter to the CAC, Leno said that Hansen "accepts full responsibility" for the

project's failure.

CAC co-chair Patrick Batt, who is also president of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, was angry with Hansen. "I think it's unfair for him to come in with this at the 11th hour," he said. "He came in with an offer out of the blue, he jacks it up halfway through, and then he pulls it out from under us."

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Hansen now hopes to lease the building for retail use. He did not return a call from the B.A.R. by press time.

Leno and members of the CAC said that they hope their work on the project will help facilitate the establishment of an alternative site. ▼

Library

◀ page 4

of the puzzle, he also said that library budget increases should not result in decreased hours, particularly for community members who have been most generous with their library donations.

"They're taking popular hours — hours that are needed — and moving those to hours that are more convenient for them administratively," he said. "And they're cutting hours at a time when there's every reason — especially economically — to add hours."

When Proposition E first passed, the library budget was increased from approximately \$20 million to \$33 million. The larger budget meant public service

hours were increased by 47 percent at branches and by 28 percent at the Main Library. Since then, the budget has increased by \$13.5 million more; this year's budget is \$46.1 million, according to George Nichols, the library's financial officer. Yet hours are being cut, not added.

"How did we go from a 47 percent increase from \$13 million," said Chaffee, "when the same money now gives us a decrease?"

The answer, said Schneider, is that operating costs have increased over five years, and the library has also used some of its budget to make infrastructure repairs.

"We've replaced five roofs, a lot of floors, things that were public safety issues," said Schneider.

"Folks are fairly pleased with the hours we have," she added. "In

the overall picture, a reduction of two hours system-wide is not a very significant difference. We truly honored what people have said to us in the hearings."

Chaffee said the actual decrease was not the only issue, however.

"What bothers me," he said, "is the way they're trying to hide what they're doing." ▼

The next — and last — public hearing on the matter takes place this Tuesday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium of the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, between Grove and Fulton at Civic Center. A vote is expected to take place that night.

Britt, the city's first openly gay board president, said November 27, 1978 was a day that forever changed his life. "When we heard the news ... it was a kind of pain I can't describe and don't want to revisit," Britt said. "Harvey's death was not the end of something, Harvey Milk was not about going back."

"Maybe the next millennium will be the millennium of the queer. You don't have to go back. You cannot go back to Harvey Milk but you have Tom Ammiano," Britt said.

Outside City Hall, Ammiano focused his comments on the murders. "Twenty-one years ago, Harvey Milk and George Moscone were murdered in this temple behind me. It was such a small act, such a petty act, such a vindictive act. It didn't stop the movement. Harvey Milk knew San Francisco was a city of neighborhoods."

"Dan White was terrified of change and I say to you, change, change, change." ▼

Milk March

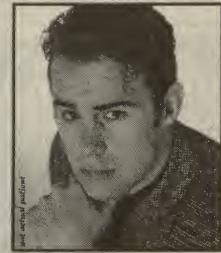
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gay candidate. Whoever wins we hope will be from our community and not be a political shill."

Four years ago, however, when Brown ran against openly lesbian mayoral candidate Roberta Achtenberg, Romero supported Brown. Campaign literature from that race shows Romero's picture and name listed among other gay and lesbian supporters of Brown.

Reached Wednesday, December 1, Romero told the Bay Area Reporter that things change in four years. "First of all, when the Toklas Club put out that letter, I didn't give permission for them to use my face. Four years ago, a lot of promises were made by Willie Brown. I don't think I'm the only one who has given it an about-face on the mayor."

Romero also said that different leadership at the Milk Club four years ago led to a packed meeting where Brown won the endorse-

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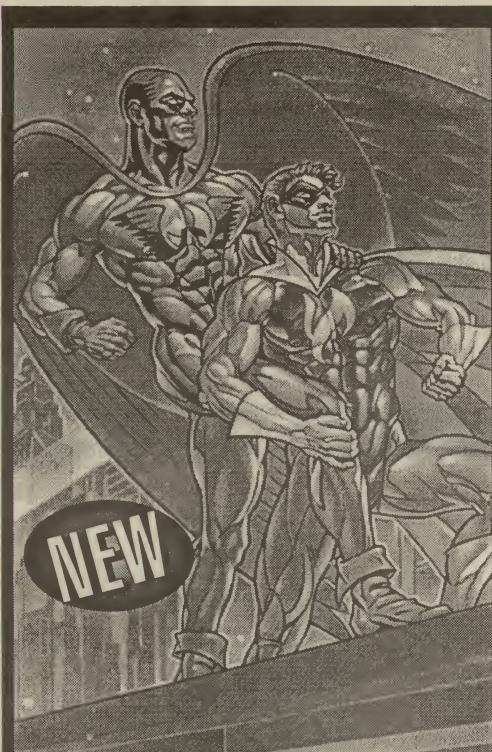
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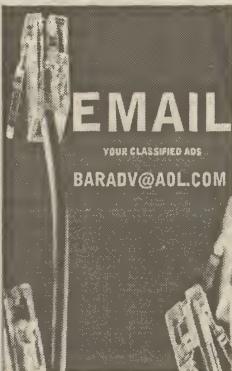
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E47 E48 E49

LEGAL NOTICES**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 306173**

In the Matter of the Application of Shaun Michael Varnado For Change of Name. The application of Shaun Michael Varnado for change of name, having been filed in court, appearing from said application that Shaun Michael Varnado has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Shaun Michael Crowder. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4/206 on the 28th day of December, 1999, at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 9, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236162

The following person(s) are doing business as, VLNA Co. 1539 Greenwich Street #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jaroslav Vlina. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/8/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/08/99.

NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 9, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236309

The following person(s) are doing business as, The International Spy Shop. 236 West Portal Avenue #206 San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason A. Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/15/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/15/99.

NOV. 25, DEC. 2, 9, 16 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236309

The following person(s) are doing business as, The International Spy Shop. 236 West

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 236440

The following person(s) are doing business as, Revenue Sharing Association. 1129 Kirkham Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard H. Trask. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236518

The following person(s) are doing business as, Model Pharmacy. 500 Balboa Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Seung Hee Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/24/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/24/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME:
217966**

The following person(s) Mary A. Schendel and Leon Sapp have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: L & R Customized Car Care. Located at: 2560 Marin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 7/1/97. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed: Mary A. Schendel and Leon Sapp. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date indicated by file stamp above, November 24, 1999.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236527

The following person(s) are doing business as, The International Spy Shop. 236 West Portal Avenue #206 San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason A. Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/15/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/15/99.

NOV. 25, DEC. 2, 9, 16 1999

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The application of Lorraine Christine Mora for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Lorraine Christine Mora has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Henri Armijo Mora. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4/206 on the 6th day of January, 2000, at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO: 036059

In the Matter of the Application of Lorraine Christine Mora For Change of Name.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236513

The following person(s) are doing business as, Foghorn Creative. Presidio Building 39 Suite #102c, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by an individual signed, Donald C. Richards. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/23/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/23/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236284

The following person(s) are doing business as, Duquez Janitorial Service, 288 Precita Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed, Miguel A. Duquez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/22/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/22/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236582

The following person(s) are doing business as, Finbarr O' Donovan Construction. 1724 43rd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed, Patrick F. O'Donovan. The regis-

trant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/15/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/15/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236527

The following person(s) are doing business as, The International Spy Shop. 236 West

Portal Avenue #206 San Francisco, Ca.

94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason A. Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/15/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/15/99.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

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DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236527

The following person(s) are doing business as, The International Spy Shop. 236 West

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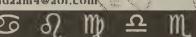
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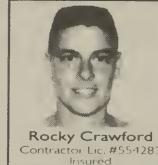
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CONFLICTING OPINIONS

Medical opinions are divided on this question. Although the numbers of patients studied are small, the implications are important to consider. On the one hand, early results from some studies appear to support the view that some people with CMV retinitis, whose HIV is being controlled by highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), can safely stop taking their anti-CMV maintenance therapy.¹ In contrast, other studies show that CMV retinitis can still occur, even in people with a good response to HAART.² Furthermore, there is no test commercially available that can accurately determine if your immune system has regained its ability to fight CMV.

EXPERTS ADVISE STAYING ON THERAPY

Remember, HAART is not indicated for the treatment or prevention of CMV retinitis. The bottom line is that even when HAART is working well against HIV, it does not always protect people against the progression of CMV retinitis. HAART can also fail! If it does, people with HIV/AIDS will be vulnerable to CMV and other opportunistic infections.

In response to these concerns, a panel of experts convened by the International AIDS Society (IAS) has recommended continuing anti-CMV maintenance therapy in people receiving HAART. According to the IAS panel, "Generally, patients in whom CMV disease has been diagnosed should be advised to continue their anti-CMV maintenance therapy as indicated because the effect of potent antiretroviral therapy on the course of CMV disease is still poorly understood."³

IT'S UP TO YOU...

If you are thinking about stopping your anti-CMV maintenance therapy, talk to your doctor. And consider this: Are the benefits really worth the risks? After all, it's your vision.

Be sure to talk to your doctor if you have any questions about your condition or therapy.

References: 1. Jabs DA et al. *Am J Ophthalmol.* December 1998;126:817-822. 2. Michelet C et al. *AIDS.* October 1998;12:1815-1822. 3. Whitley RJ et al. *Arch Intern Med.* May 1998;158:957-969.

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Out of the mouths of babes
42nd Street Moon finds Rodgers and Hart's 'lost' musical, 'Babes in Arms.'
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George vs. Martha
Michael Kearns takes on Edward Albee in new play.
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Notes on (POW) camp
Renoir's 'Grand Illusion' plays the Castro Theatre.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 48 • 2 December 1999

It's in the

Ballet and shtick commingle in SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band's 'Dance-Along Nutcracker'

Wander among the rehearsal studios at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts these days, and you're bound to bump into some striking piece of the *Dance-Along Nutcracker*, which runs this weekend at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Giant, silver lamé bon-bons roll through the hallways like miniature space modules with human heads. Humongous detergent products — including a butch bottle of "Mr. Queen" complete with shaved head and 14-gauge ring in his left ear — kick back with legs crossed waiting to rehearse. Live band music seeps through the walls with a range of moods to make any drama queen proud: from somber melodrama (*Swan Lake*) to manic whimsy (*Rocky and Bullwinkle*), from holiday traditional (*Nutcracker Suite*) to high hissy fit (*Night on Bald Mountain*).

It's this MTV-paced kaleidoscope of music, live dance and vaudeville shtick that keeps this annual holiday shindig presented by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band fresh after more than a decade. Toss into the mix the choreographic improvisations of the audience — an unpredictable cross-section of San Francisco that includes everyone from drag queens to straight parents with toddlers to investment bankers to street artists — and the show is dramatically new with each performance.

In a society that often relegates music to elevators and video background, the *Dance-Along* is one show in which the music is virtually a character in itself. This year, Artistic Director Jadine Louie has selected many of the more memorable pieces from *Fantasia*, a film classic that gives visual images to the moods and textures of famous music compositions. So to round out Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, among the highlights from *Fantasia* (remember the dancing mushrooms and Cossack dandelions?), Louie has chosen *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and *Night on Bald Mountain*, in addition to *Bolero*, *Swan Lake* and *The Russian Sailor's Dance*. The program also includes music from cartoons *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, *Dudley Do-Right* and *The Simpsons*. A jazz-style rendition of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" features the vocal stylings of Trauma Flintstone and an uncanny im-

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Dance-Along Nutcracker performers, clockwise from center: Kai Leshne, Monica Nolan, Trauma Flintstone, Billy Green, and Artistic Director Jadine Louie

Rebecca McBride



Mark Morris Dance Group in *The Hard Nut*.

Sugar plum gluttony

Alternatives to 'Nutcracker' fatigue

by Aimée Ts'ao

These days we think of seeing *The Nutcracker* at Christmastime as a tradition going back to the 19th century. Although it first premiered in 1892 in St. Petersburg, it did not become the ubiquitous holiday staple it is for more than half a century. San Francisco Ballet was the first American company to mount a full-length production, in 1941, and has performed it annually since 1949. New York City Ballet premiered George Balanchine's version in 1954, but nationwide sugar plum gluttony didn't bring on diabetic coma until the 1960s. By now, *Nutcracker* is to dancers what "When the Saints Go Marching In" is to New Orleans jazzmen.

Don't let me deter you from going, especially if you are taking young children, as it's a wonderful introduction to classical music and dance. For those of you who want forge new tradi-

page 48 ►

Robert DE NIRO

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Now Playing!

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Dutch Treat

Two eminent queers of the 20th century died last week, expatriate American writer and composer **Paul Bowles** and the mother of all dandies, **Quentin Crisp**. We were traveling abroad, so we don't know how their deaths played in the US press, but the Anglophone international press marked both passings prominently. A stiff at the *Wall St. Journal's* European edition took to the op-ed page to chide Bowles, posthumously, for his *kif-fueled nihilism* and his "failure" to grow as a writer. If this ink-stained copyist had ever written anything as immortal as *The Sheltering Sky*, perhaps we'd have heard of him before.

As for Crisp, the BBC noted his mauve mane and strong individualism and couldn't resist quoting a few of his *bon mots*, including, "If at first you don't succeed, perhaps failure is your style."

Among the books we'd brought on holiday was **Ian McEwan's** brilliant *Amsterdam*, the winner of last year's Booker Prize now out in paperback. Yes we know, paperbacks are the ghosts of their hardcovers, but we were packing light. Only the last 30 pages of the novel take place in that Netherlandish city, but we found ourselves unconsciously echoing the book's **Clive Linley** as we lit out from Central Station and strolled along the Brouwersgracht, thinking along with Clive,

"So consoling, to have a body of water down the middle of a street." Linley and **Vernon Halliday** are an amoral composer and an amoral newspaper editor, respectively. So the book felt like home.

Too, Amsterdam was an old friend, as we amused ourselves in ways you might expect. Got our art fix at the Rijksmuseum and at the Stedelijk museum, where a showing of the late **Peter Hujar's** photographs includes a portrait of his lover, the late artist and writer **David Wojnarowicz**. Also on show were some amusing **Damien Hirst** paintings of the contents of a picnic, done as pharmaceutical labels in outrageous scale. Whine along with us: why does Europe always get the good stuff?

One of the things we love about the Dutch is their famed tolerance, and we mean of any peccadillo. The *Beaujolais nouveau* had just arrived, and unlike the Brits, who hold their nasty British beef against the French (any chance they get), the Dutch are delighted to serve it up.

Out There



The Rijksmuseum, home of Rembrandts and Vermeers.

At the gay-owned and -opped hash "coffee house" the Other Side, the DJ turned up the techno to drive away some uptight Little Englanders who had stumbled in. We thought we had had too many space cakes when we approached the circular back bar at April, which may be the cruellest month, but is the kindest watering hole. Why? Because the whole clientele at the bar, plus the very bar on which they perched, was slowly rotating counterclockwise, and in contrary motion to the bartender. But don't blame cannabis: there were hidden motors involved. On an orbiting stool, we felt as if we were simultaneously at a gay bar and on a carnival ride. OK, that too is familiar.

Taking the trams is also like an amusement park ride, the way they career around narrow curves at high speeds. In Amsterdam, they name their streets and squares after artists: **Vermeerstraat**, or **Rembrandtplein**. As opposed to, say, **Gen. Douglas MacArthur** tunnel. We enjoyed a spliff in the coffee shop **Kandinsky** — apropos, since we'd been knocked senseless by a pair of Kandinskys at the museum earlier.

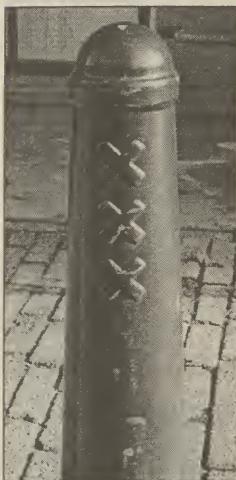
Speaking of senseless: the bars on sleazy Warmoesstraat in the red-light district are famous for their back rooms, which the natives call dark rooms, for they are indeed pitch-black enough to safely develop film. Turn the lights on, boys: we like to see what — or whom — we're doing.

On the other hand, Amsterdam's way of dealing with cars in the city is quite efficient: they put them on car elevators and stack them underground, a trick we first witnessed in Barcelona. Now if only they didn't dig them back up.

Standing o

Speaking of matters continental, could the **Italian maestro** currently appearing at the War Memorial be trying to import a custom better left at La Scala? Word on the street is that the fervent ovations from standing room which greeted the conductor's every bow could well have been the doings of a **claque**: a group hired to cheer or even boo. Out There thinks whoever was behind the ticketed mob should have bought up the seats in the orchestra *next to* standing room: our spies on the aisle spotted the whole charade.

Adios, Creampuff! ▼



Roberto Friedman

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Blow jobs from the heart

'Dream Boy' at New Conservatory Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Chicago and Atlanta, no slouches as theater towns, have taken to *Dream Boy*, so why does the play seem so wan in San Francisco? The production at New Conservatory Theatre Center is a likely culprit, but I'm still

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not convinced this adaptation of a Jim Grimsley novel is all that stageworthy.

Eric Rosen has attempted the difficult task of creating a play from prose, and balances, rhythms, and development seem out of whack here. But they might seem less so if the ungraceful stagings on an awkward set didn't regularly undo the dreamlike quality that Rosen has set out to create.

The tale starts off like a Bible Belt variation on *Beautiful Thing*, as two high schoolers in rural North Carolina slowly acknowl-

the dialog may have commingled more comfortably on the page, but on the stage it just sounds silly to hear interjections about "the white spaces of time" and "the rolling of cloud bottoms across heaven."

Leon Accord, his urbane look out of sync with the setting, plays the ethereal narrator with effortful lyricism. In contrast, Chris Jamba could hardly be better cast as Nathan. With his carrot-red hair, coal-black eyes, and a cupcake of a face, Jamba delivers his lines with a stripped-down sincerity that becomes seductive.

Scott Nordquist, top, and Chris Jamba, bottom, in *Dream Boy*

edge their attraction for each other. And as with Jonathan Harvey's blue-collar British Romeos, one of the lads is driven from his own home by an abusive father. But unlike *Beautiful Thing*, which is subtitled "an urban myth" and ends like a fairy tale, *Dream Boy* takes a tragic turn before a squishy coda undercuts it.

Nathan is the shy and sensitive new boy in town, an icon of such sweet innocence that we're a little surprised when we find he's been giving his new friend blow jobs—blow jobs from the heart, one must surmise. Roy, the object of Nathan's affections, is more conflicted, still hanging out with his yahoo friends who make fun of the delicate newcomer.

When the tragedy arrives, it doesn't feel dramatically justified by what has come before, at least in the stage version, while the abusive father becomes something of an ominous red herring.

The poetic aspirations of the narration and the dry simplicity of

Scott Nordquist's Roy is not as enticing, somewhat unbalancing this ostensibly heavenly match, but he holds his own. Bill Johnson is crudely effective as the play's bully, and Lino Antonio creates an amusingly goofy sidekick.

Sherry Al-Mufti and Kristi Scott are properly motherly as the parents of Nathan and Roy, respectively, but Lee Corbett, as Nathan's father, does everything but twiddle his mustache in over-selling the character's villainy.

The action takes place on Robert Vogt's atmosphere-free set of plywood levels that accentuate the clomping sounds of the performers as they follow the busy patterns of director Dan Oliverio's staging. Unfortunately, this *Dream Boy* is far from being a dream state. ▼

Dream Boy will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Jan. 1. Tickets are \$13-\$22. Call 861-8972.

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THEATRE

Crying Woolf

by Richard Dodds

Michael Kearns would love to play Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, but Edward Albee won't let him.

Actually, Albee is totally and litigiously opposed to any man taking on the female roles in his classic play, despite the enduring rumor that it is a gay play in disguise.

And so Kearns has written a play about four men who are acting in a production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, using Albee's themes as a jumping off point to explore a collection of contemporary gay issues.

"The writer's job everyday is to say, 'What if,' and I simply said, what if four male actors in 1999 were in *Virginia Woolf*?" The result, *Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?*, begins performances this week at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

The play had its premiere in Los Angeles in June, and the reviews made Kearns happy.

"This sprawling exercise in excess," wrote the reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times*, "is consistently fascinating, as watchable as a train wreck, and as feverishly histrionic as a Joan Crawford film festival."

"I think that's a great compliment," Kearns said. "Maybe it's not intended to be, but that's the sort of thing I like to watch. Besides, that review sold a lot of tickets."

He does fret that the reviewers misunderstood something he said about the play. "They seemed to think I said I was trying to recreate the characters in the Albee play," he said. "My characters may mirror and be influenced by them to some extent, but I deliberately tried to create four contemporary gay men who have their own peccadilloes and issues."

Though he has written and performed in his own solo shows, Kearns is still new at his career as a full-fledged playwright. But at 49, Kearns is a Hollywood acting veteran who has done everything from *The Waltons* to *Cheers*.

What makes his tale notable is that he had been out as a gay man in Hollywood for 25 years, landing mainstream acting assignments in an industry where the closet is only now beginning to open up.

"There are still plenty of closet cases in town," he said. "In fact, the character of the actor playing Nick is very much patterned on a rather well-known TV actor who is still in the closet."

He was dubbed "the only openly gay actor in Hollywood," and then he became known as the first publicly HIV-positive actor after being diagnosed in 1989. "And now I'm one of the first HIV people to adopt a baby. I don't know what I'm going to be the first of next."

Who's Afraid of Edward Albee? will run through Jan. 22. Call 861-8972.

Solo assaults

David Mills has satirically explored gay marriage in *The Wedding Banned* and caustically explored gay culture in *Duty Free*. But in the press release for *What I Want*, his latest solo performance piece, the word "gay" does not appear.

*Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?* playwright Michael Kearns

Solo performer David Mills

pear.

Is his new show sexually neutral?

"Nothing I do is sexually neutral," he shot back. "I am a gay man, and that will always be a part of everything I do. But it's not as specifically about being gay as some of my other pieces."

His main target this time is solo performance art — his own and other performers' — which he hopes to bury once and for all with *What I Want*. Does he really think he'll succeed? "Of course not," he said with a laugh. "And I'm sure I'll do some more myself."

Mills promises to name names of the worst offenders of solo works, though he declined to offer a preview in print. "I want people to come see the show," he said. "But they will be names people recognize."

But it's not a solo performance just about solo performances. Mills' life in New York informs much of the work, as he talks about "all the stuff we're bombarded with every time you walk down the street."

Mills recently moved from San Francisco to New York, he said, to get away from the self-ghettoization by gay theater artists. "I'm so tired of the same old things in gay theater. People just don't care about all that in New York. They've moved on to other things."

What I Want will run at the Intersections for the Arts through Dec. 12. Call 626-3311.

A white (trash) Christmas

The Crawfords won't be celebrating Christmas this year. "We wanted to take a little break and try something different," Trauma

It's the sixth year for this send-up of Yuletide television specials, featuring Carpenters classics, Christmas songs, and Broadway show tunes.

Katie Guthorn returns as Karen Carpenter, who has lost her Christmas spirit on the eve of her big TV special. She'll be joined on stage by Meg MacKay, Morey Goldstein, J. Raoul Brody, and Steffano X. Director Tom Ross wrote the banter that holds the music together.

Performances continue through Dec. 28. Call 826-5750. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARarts@aol.com.

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Baritone Paolo Gavanelli and soprano Andrea Gruber in *Nabucco*

Slaves to the opera

S.F. Opera's old-fashioned 'Nabucco'

by Stephanie von Buchau

A few weeks ago I moderated a discussion at the Commonwealth Club between Lofti Mansouri and Frederica von Stade. Questions from the audience were written out, and it was my job to work them into the dis-

cussion. At least a third of the cards repeated the same dumb question: "Why doesn't Luciano Pavarotti [or some other over-the-hill icon] return to SFO?"

The relentlessly retro, conservative, anti-art attitude of this starstruck question — especially in a season that featured Ramon Vargas in two roles — totally dispirited me. I thought about that question last Wednesday when SFO unveiled its last "new" production of the century, Verdi's third opera and first success, *Nabucco*. It is an old-fashioned, tub-thumping gut-buster, and the audience loved it, even though it didn't have one cast member worthy to shine Pavarotti's shoes.

Most of all, they loved the elderly conductor, Nello Santi, who knows the opera by heart and conducts it without a score. Great. I know *Turandot* by heart, too, but you don't want to hear me conduct it. Granted, early Verdi, with its balance teetering between burgeoning genius and stale rum-tiddy formula, is extremely difficult to control. SFO, since the days of Kurt Herbert Adler, has had a dismal record with early and middle period Verdi. When I think of the ghastly *Trovatore*, *Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Ernani*, *Macbeth* (one good one under the late Terry McEwen in 1986) and *Forza del destino* I have suffered through in the last 40 years, this current *Nabucco* shouldn't look so bad.

Oh, but it does. Ezio Frigerio's interior decorator sets, consisting mostly of mosaic-encrusted columns, were designed to please the jet set matrons who pay for the opera. Balconistas told me they could not see most of the set pieces or the special effects, such as *Nabucco*'s sudden entrance in a golden chariot. Maria-Luisa Walek's gaudy gold-and-velvet costumes probably induced envy in the box set, but not even a social x-ray would be caught dead in those bunched trousers Walek inflicted on Abigaille.

'Git 'em off'

Mansouri himself directed traffic; one can't really blame him for the static clumping of the chorus and supernumeraries. Verdi wrote scads of square "git 'em on and git 'em off" marches. Santi was unable to shape or disguise the worst aspects of the score; his overture was divided into swoon and bang, with nary a transition

in sight. However, he was good at animating the slow-building ensembles that are the glory of this opera, imparting an unctuous heat that would have been more effective if he could have kept principals and chorus together. He left the chorus alone in "Va, pensiero," the great liberation cry that Italians still consider their unofficial national anthem; Ian Robertson's gang rose to the occasion.

Gwyn Hughes Jones made a wan debut as Ismaele; this British tenor seems better suited to Vaughan Williams. Elizabeth Bishop did her best with the ungrateful part of Fenena, *Nabucco*'s legitimate daughter, opposed to Abigaille, the slave he has adopted. (Don't ask.) Andrea Gruber (Abigaille) is not an unknown quantity on the West Coast. She sang the soprano part in the S.F. Symphony's Verdi *Requiem* at the Civic Auditorium a few years ago, and she was the vital, exciting Elsa in Seattle Opera's impressive 1994 *Lohengrin* (the one with Ben Heppner and the animatronic swan). Why Gruber wants to jeopardize that large, gleaming instrument with this career-endangering role (remember Leonie Rysanek and Elena Souliotis?) is beyond me. Her morbid legato in the cavatina "Anch'io dischiuso" was lovely, but her brave charge through its impossible cabaletta was hardly pleasant.

At least she sang in tune, which you couldn't say about her male partners. Someone please explain Roberto Scandiuzzi's prominence to me. He's a young guy, but he sings with an old voice, devoid of color, woolly in the middle and possessing a top so hollow you could hide several Thanksgiving turkeys there and still have room for a king-sized mattress.

If Scandiuzzi sounded over-parted, baritone Paolo Gavanelli just disappointed. Gavanelli, who has a champion somewhere in SFO casting circles, has not proved his mettle here before in *Andrea Chenier* or *Rigoletto*, but at least he has feelings and some idea of how the music should go. He doesn't shout, yet his technique lets him down in the softer passages. *Nabucco*, after all, is a precursor to *Rigoletto* — a put-upon father who causes his own downfall and suffers mightily for it. Gavanelli suffers all right, but that

next page ▶

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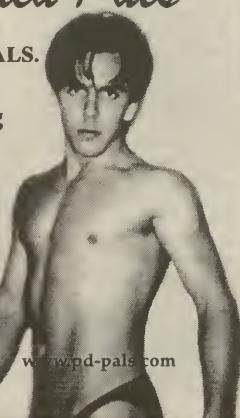
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MUSIC

Good morning, maestro

Ali Akbar Khan's mastery in the a.m.

by Tim Pfaff

Heading into the full moon is an auspicious time in many Asian cultures, and it certainly was two Sundays ago, when Ali Akbar Khan played a rapturous round of morning ragas at the Palace of Fine Arts. We used to say "a rare concert of morning ragas," because ragas, improvised pieces of Indian classical music, are time-of-day specific — so much so that Indian musicians simply couldn't play them at the wrong time of day — and most concerts take place in the evening. But morning ragas form a special part of this repertoire and warrant wider exposure. Khansahib, as he is known, is in my experience the only musician to play them in concert since the late starstruck Nikhil Banerjee — and he has been generous in offering them on a nearly annual basis.

It's a chore for everyone to get to a concert at 10 a.m. on Sunday, which explains why this one got going a lot closer to 10:30. And, as my concert partner du jour discovered, it's not a predictably lulling experience once the music starts. Morning ragas have their rigors, and the one Khansahib selected, Ahir bhairo, proved pretty stern stuff for most of its 100-minute duration. The maestro was plucking some trenchant sounds from his sarod (the so-called "Indian lute"), and the opening, unaccompanied alap was all about looking in the piece's dark corners.

What kept it from being as severe as Khansahib's own predilections seemed that morning was the fact that he wasn't the only sarod player on stage. His teenage son Alam, who made his astonishing local debut on that same stage a year ago, joined his father again. While Alam is clearly growing in technique, musicianship and confidence at just the right pace, he's no match — and would be the first to admit it — for his 78-year-old father, who has been playing this music since his own childhood, is its acknowledged international master and is regarded by many as the world's greatest living musician. So to play "with"



Notes From All Over

hands off his own sarod and watched and listened in the wonder that overtook everyone in the room. Even tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, playing with Khansahib for the first time in five years, uncharacteristically deferred. It's not as if anyone were going to get hurt — Khansahib was in a supremely playful mood — but similarly there was no point, even for one of the world's great drummer's, to challenge him. Simply keeping up was virtuosity enough.

The concert, which ran to a rich four hours before it (and we) wound down, ended in a ragnamala ("garden of ragas," essentially a medley) that was more relaxed, inviting music. And, strangely, no less substantive. Whatever else it was, it was, gratefully, a downhill ride to the finish.

Because I myself am decamping for Asia, I won't be able to say it again for a while, so I'll say it once more now. Khansahib, who lives and teaches in Marin County, is one of the Bay Area's great musical treasures. Don't take him for granted. When you encounter him at the peak of his powers, as he was that recent Sunday, there's the temptation to think that he'll always be there. And he still begins every concert with a reaffirmation of his willingness to, as he said that day, "serve." The only proper response is to feast — and give to his school, San Rafael's always struggling Ali Akbar College of Music. The best way to find out about his concerts is to get on the mailing list, by calling the school at (415) 454-6264.

Puzzlers

By the time you read this, we'll be on the downside to the holidays, however you recognize and celebrate them. If holiday music is your thing, there's the usual roster of concerts and the annual barrage of holiday CDs. It's a puzzle

zing picture on the CD front this year, so here's my best-effort handicapping.

The big opera star disc of the year is Anne Sofie von Otter's *Home for Christmas*. Even in an age rich with great mezzo-sopranos, this Swedish singer is a standout for her penetrating artistry, appreciable versatility across a huge range of repertoire, keen intelligence and, oh, great pipes. She's featured on an avalanche of recent releases from Deutsche Grammophon, her regular label, all of equal distinction — which makes this record the more baffling.

She programs an interesting blend of familiar and unfamiliar music, both from her native Sweden and other cultures, each tune with its own, thoughtful accompaniment. But like so many big-name Christmas records over the years, it doesn't quite come off. Some of it's excellent, of course, but not consistently enough so that you can relax into it. And although there's not a significant lapse of taste anywhere along the way — which alone makes it something special — it doesn't find the singer in her freshest voice. There's a hint of strain (and at times more than a hint) in the voice that's, well, dispiriting.

The serious, and I mean serious, listener will not be disappointed in the Heinrich Schütz *Christmas Vespers* as performed by Paul McCreech and his Gabrielli Consort and Players. An enlightened recreation of what this truly great 17th-century music might have sounded like in its original liturgical context, the recording is as vivid and transporting as all of McCreech's other such musical enterprises to date. The hitch is, you're not likely to know the music already, and since familiarity is at the heart of most holiday musical experiences, this could present a greater challenge than most people are up for in the crush of festivities. If, on the other hand, you've managed to hang on to an inner life, you couldn't do a lot better.

What most people are likely to find most gratifying is *Angels & Shepherds*, another collection of 17th-century music from the Netherlands Bach Society on the Channel Classics label. It sounds like Christmas from the very first track, and by the second, Praetorius' "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming," you're in Christmas heaven. It's a masterful blend of familiar music and pieces you'll want to know if you don't already, and the buoyant musicianship carries you happily start to finish.

Happy holidays! ▼

Nabucco

◀ previous page

poetic piano singing is unsupported by a properly emitted breath, with the result that the line constantly dips below the pitch.

Now if you want to talk about the "good old days," remember that the first time we heard *Nabucco* at the War Memorial was in 1961, when the title role was sung by the late Ettore Bastianini. He was another singer who tended to croon in the quiet places, and he was also known to sing under the note. That said, he was the sexiest baritone any of us ever heard. Get him back, and even I will become a nostalgic. ▼

Nabucco continues in repertory through Dec. 12 at the War Memorial Opera House.



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Top guns

Renoir's 'Grand Illusion' at the Castro

by David Lamble

I'm staring at the photograph of a young man in full military dress. A leather belt runs across his chest, a pair of gloves nestled in his left hand, a riding crop traverses his thighs just below the crotch, his face is shockingly young, and, despite his presence in a British aviator's uniform, unmistakably French. He is my father — a teenager staring back at me across nearly the entire expanse of the century. My father flew those little Snoopy-vs.-the-Red-Baron planes for the British Royal Flying Corps during WWI as a reconnaissance pilot, a kind of spy. My mother says he flew to avoid the trenches where half his generation died. He did drag in canteen shows during the periods when the killing was halted.

The characters in Jean Renoir's *Grand Illusion*, which opens Friday at the Castro in a week's run, are reconnaissance pilots. When shot down, they are sent to a rather genteel POW camp run by German officers for enemy soldiers of their class. To kill time, they wear the only civilian clothes their German captors allow — women's clothes. *Grand Illusion* is most alive during this drag show, when the customs of the time are gently mocked, setting up for a skewering of that generation's most cherished and already completely outdated ideals. The drag show scenes also demonstrate how archetypal this 62-year-old film has become. Every POW film since owes a debt to *Grand Illusion: The Great Escape, Stalag 17*, etc. *Grand Illusion's* drag show is interrupted by news that the

French have recaptured a provincial town from the Germans (who promptly re-recapture it). The "girls" rip off their wigs and burst into several choruses of "La Marseillaise," as would the Free French denizens of Rick's, five years later, in *Casablanca*.

Grand Illusion is Renoir's only big American hit. It would be inaccurate to call it the *Top Gun* of its day, but Renoir was influenced by a fad for aviation movies in the mid-'30s. The director was fascinated by the POW escape stories of his Air Force buddy Armand Pinsard. Pinsard's escapades are at the core of *Grand Illusion's* plot: French pilot shot down by the Germans; numerous escape attempts land him in solitary for 35 days and repeated transfers from camp to camp; and finally, a successful escape from a German fortress followed by a 200-mile walk to the Swiss border with a couple of days' food and a map. Renoir and his co-screenwriter Charles Spaak each added their own memories. Renoir recalls the prisoners discussing women's fashions (the short hair and short skirts make one downed pilot feel like he's "going to bed with a boy"), and Spaak remembers his POW brother singing the Belgium anthem and causing an uproar during a camp show.

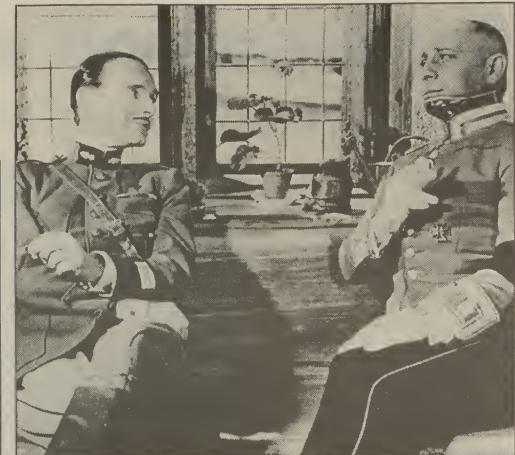
Galloping gourmet

As strong as this material is, it still doesn't add up to a Top 10 film of all time. Good judgment and happy accidents cause *Grand Illusion* to stand above all other French films of the '30s, with the exception of Renoir's own classic, *The Rules of the Game*. Renoir and Spaak treat European civilization's

all-pervasive anti-Semitism as a kind of room freshener that virtually all the characters feel the need to spray on themselves and each other — they're all dogs in this way. To this dung heap Renoir and Spaak add Rosenthal, scion of a rich Jewish mercantile family, who shares frequent gourmet food packages with his fellow prisoners. At one point, French culture is epitomized by a can of tiny peas. Rosenthal ironically tells his buddies that his family's enormous land holdings give him the best reason for patriotism.

Rosenthal is brought to the screen by Marcel Dalio, up 'til then known for a rogue's gallery of lowlife types, which could in some cases be veiled representations of Jews. The creation of Rosenthal in the midst of a decade that gave birth to "The Final Solution" was a bold stroke. Dalio would be exiled by the war and wind up as the nimble-fingered croupier in *Casablanca*, the man who could roll an infinity of 22's for Rick.

Grand Illusion's *piece de résistance* was both a casting and a thematic coup, the even-then-legendary Erich Von Stroheim. The "don" was a self-invented title, a prop just like the neckbrace worn by Captain Von Rauffenstein (and used by Von Stroheim for many of his onscreen aristocrats). Son of a German Jewish merchant, but as much a creation of Hollywood as Cary Grant, Erich Oswald Stroheim had sat at the knee of cinema great D.W. Griffith and had graduated to direct a brief series of controversial masterpieces — films either eviscerated by the studios or done by Stroheim's own obsessive instincts (his most famous film,



Rialto Pictures/Jean Renoir

Pierre Fresnay and Erich Von Stroheim in Jean Renoir's *Grand Illusion*

Greed, was a 10-hour silent saga that was shorn to 10 reels).

Von Stroheim was born to play Captain Von Rauffenstein. At their first meeting in *Grand Illusion*, Von Rauffenstein forms a pact with the stiff-necked French Captain de Boeldieu (Pierre Fresnay). They are the last of a dying breed of noblemen, the only survivors of the feudal traditions that give war any nobility. The odd, doomed friendship of Von Rauffenstein and de Boeldieu brings the metaphors of *Grand Illusion* to life just as surely as Nazi stormtroopers and modern technology would render such ideals impotent.

All-male show

Grand Illusion was in danger of being rejected as an all-male buddy film (this was before today's goal of seeing how many 14-year-old boys can catch your film in its opening weekend), and here Renoir and Spaak improvise brilliantly, creating not only a *Casablanca*-like pair of buddies, but a fetching snowbound romance complete with German Swiss maid.

The film itself is almost trumped by the miraculous escape-and-restoration story that allowed this would-be lost classic to survive. High on Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels' list of films to destroy, *Grand Illusion* was preserved through a

most unlikely partnership of a French film scholar aided by a Nazi archivist: Henri Langlois, founder of the Cinémathèque Française, and Dr. Frank Hensel, named by Goebbels to head the German Reichsfilmarchiv. Both were cinema pack rats who risked their lives to prevent crimes against celluloid. Thanks to them, the camera negative of *Grand Illusion* traveled to Berlin, Moscow and back to France, where it sat forgotten on a lab shelf. Just compare the rental copy of *Grand Illusion* with the restored treat awaiting you at the Castro to judge the miracles of today's restoration magicians.

Ultimately, the film's disillusioned heroes were not only doomed, but due to vanish — their struggles of conscience, their foibles rendered all-but-incomprehensible to us. As Rosenthal and Captain Marechal (Jean Gabin) cross the Swiss border in the range of German guns, we realize that for them it is 1916. The war is but half over — should they survive, they are doomed to fight again. As I write this, I look into the teenage eyes of my long-dead father, the gloves in his hand and the crop resting on his thighs about to be put to some purpose beyond my understanding. ▼

Grand Illusion plays the Castro Theatre December 3-9.



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'Classical music is a drug'

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is 'Speaking in Strings'

by Stephanie von Buchau

For years I've been hearing that violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg was so over the top that her music-making was "mannered, distorted, seldom beautiful," and that she "battled the composer rather than interpreting him." That hers was a gratuitously self-aggrandizing "act" impossible to watch.

Then, in July, my favorite conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, accompanying Salerno-Sonnenberg in the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. Of course, I went, prepared for heavy-

being abandoned by Salerno-Sonnenberg's father; with her aged pet cat, whom she treats daily with home dialysis; making chamber music with former Juilliard classmates; and rushing to a concert with a raging case of flu. "I don't want to play because I am so sick," she says, "yet the only time I feel good is when I play. Classical music is a drug!"

This comment is the kind of insight-with-bite that makes Nadja the smartest talking head in this documentary. Though she tells us "I can never say with my mouth what I can say [on the violin]," she can be frighteningly articulate. So much so that when she breaks down trying to de-

that when she enters a room, everybody falls in love with her, including the goldfish jumping out of their aquariums. Salerno-Sonnenberg is funny, profane, pop-cultured ("James Kirk was the coolest") and wears fabulous concert outfits, brightly colored military tunics over black trousers that make her look like an Austro-Hungarian cavalryman. And, whatever those critics who prefer the decorum of Midori or Sarah

Chang to Nadja's wildness may think, she can play the violin.

Documentarian Paola di Fazio, a childhood friend of Nadja's from New Jersey, obviously had to make choices, and maybe it is just my journalistic mind that wishes she hadn't been so reticent — especially after setting us up with that heavy-breathing about the failed love affair. (Besides, if she's only had one bad one, she's doing better than 99 percent of the rest

of us.) On the other hand, the flashes of wit, the music-making, and that endearingly crooked smile that make *Speaking in Strings* so entertaining, are pure Salerno-Sonnenberg. You don't fake that. Let's hope she returns to the San Francisco Symphony soon. ▼

Speaking in Strings opens Friday at the Lumiere.



Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg: 'I feel more than anyone I know.'

Charles Abbott / Photographers' Agents

en knows what bizarre experience. As my companion, an experienced music maven who does not flap easily, said, "That may have been the most entertaining concert I've ever heard."

Amen. To quote from my review in the *Oakland Tribune*: "Fiddling as though her life depended on it... she dances while she plays, her shoulders doing rock 'n' roll rather than 19th-century classical. She makes faces, sings along and generally behaves the way we have been taught that a soloist should not. Yet it isn't the least phony, and her rapport with Temirkanov was worth the whole concert."

I apologize for listening to other critics and assuming I'd find the Italian-American (born in Rome; raised in Jersey) fiddler over the top, when in fact I found her intensely musical and profoundly passionate. All of that is confirmed, and then some, in *Speaking in Strings*, a documentary opening Friday at the Lumiere, about Salerno-Sonnenberg's artistic life and the crisis she suffered four years ago when she accidentally chopped off the tip of the pinkie on her fingering hand and became so despondent she tried to commit suicide, with a gun that fortunately misfired.

Not only is the film dramatically compelling and uplifting in a good way when Nadja decides that living is more important than dying ("It takes guts to be happy"), but the subject turns out to be more than just a star violinist. In fact, she's one of those mesmerizing personalities whom you want to take to dinner, just to listen to her laugh. We see her with friends, mostly women in the business; with her mother, who raised two daughters alone after

sue the end of a love affair, we are sympathetic with her pain but furious that she can't go on. One suspects wisdom of the ages about relationships lurking behind those lips that squeeze filtered Camels.

Dipping and swaying

At one point, trying to explain the dipping, swaying, dancing and mugging that goes on when she plays, she says: "I feel more than anyone I know. Sometimes that is phenomenal — [pause] — and sometimes it's a curse." Those who are embarrassed by Nadja's antics on stage show a remarkably tenacious desire to explain their discomfort in musical terms. Talking head Martin Bernheimer tries to sound judicial, but he comes across as being scared to death of so much unbridled emotion. Unfortunately, the film shows a similar discomfort in its coy dithering about Salerno-Sonnenberg's romantic orientation.

We can make the point that it is nobody's business with whom she is in love. Yet, to put it bluntly, the whole musical world believes that Salerno-Sonnenberg is a lesbian and, as far as I can tell, nobody cares. That is, we don't care whom she sleeps with, but we do fear that the effort of concealment, presumably out of fear of the public's reaction, may add to this artist's obvious psychic stress. In which case, one wants, especially because Salerno-Sonnenberg is so likable, to say, "Lighten up; it isn't going to make any difference to your fans." If anything, it might increase our understanding of her demons.

As with Rupert Everett and Mark Morris, both of whom are emphatically out, Nadja's personal attractiveness is so universal

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Fri 3

Luna Sea

"Luna Sea 5th Anniversary Celebration," a weekend of performances by a multitude of artists. Featuring two plays from the DykeDrama Festival, Liquid Fire, From Our Lips and more. Photographer Virginia Benavides' "Pow Wow" series will be displayed in the women's gallery. \$13 advance; \$15 door. 8pm. Also on Dec. 4, 2940 16th St. #200-2. Tix at Mama Bears Women's Bookstore in Oakland and A Different Light in SF. Tix/info: 863-2989.

CCAC, Oakland Campus

Cinemateque's Consciousness Cinema and the California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC) present "Sleep Over," a special midnight/all-night screening of Andy Warhol's *Sleep* (1963; approx. 5 hrs.). The audience drifts in and out of consciousness with the silvery image of gorgeous masculine slumber. A bus will pick up viewers in front of CCAC SF. (450 Irwin St. @ Wisconsin) at 10:30pm and at the front entrance of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts at 11pm, and return from Oakland to the same locations after the film concludes (approx. 5:30am). \$7 (\$4 students, seniors, members). Info: (415) 558-8129.

Atelier 142 Gallery

Special reception: "Homme," a celebration of the male form, images by photographers James Scott Geras (he shot the 2000 South of Market Bare Chest Calendar), Conrad Hector, and Don Garlow, and paintings by Daniel Tousignant. Champagne and chocolate served. Partial proceeds from sales benefit the Positive Resource Center. 4:30-9pm (also on Sat., Dec. 4). 142 Fillmore (at Waller). Reservations required; phone 861-8216.

A Different Light

Felice Picano reads from his latest novel, *Book of Lies*, a stylish mystery, part satire, part tribute; a witty critique of academia and literary criticism. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Booksmith

Best-selling thriller novelist, playwright, film director and producer Clive Barker autographs copies of *The Essential Clive Barker* (Harper-Collins). It includes excerpts from his novels, novellas and plays, plus musings on his themes of doorways, journeys, dreams and more. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight. 863-8688.

St. Paulus Lutheran Church

An exhibition of art by women and children with HIV. Refreshments, and art for sale. Today and Sat., 1-5pm. 930 Gough (btwn. Eddy & Turk). Info: 621-1714.

SoMar Gallery

The Red Tail Morris Dancers and the Pipe and Bowl Morris Dancers perform at the "Medieval Manor Yule Feast," an annual event with a Viking theme. Catered food, storytelling, and unusual fun. \$25, children & seniors \$15. 8-11pm. 934 Brannan St. Reservations required: 468-9664.

Dancer's Group Studio Theater

"Call It What You Like," a split evening of dance and theater, featuring works by Shona Curley, Erika Shuch and the Beauty School. \$12-15. 8pm. Dec. 3-5 and 10-12. 3221 22nd St. (at Mission). 824-5044.

The LAB

Miya Masaoka's Bee Show. Masaoka will play duets with 3,000 bees — while on stage with them in a glass-exhibit hive. Includes live audio amplification of the bees' vibrating wings, processed and mixed by Masaoka with composer/mixer/programmer Scot Gresham-Lancaster. Prior to Bee Show, apiarist Marc Mass and UC Berkeley researchers will hold forth, particularly in regards to robotic flies. \$7-10, sliding scale. Today & Sat. at 9:30pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Reservations: 864-8855.

Exit Theatre Stage Left

The Turn of the Screw, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, from the novel by Henry James. The Chameleon Theatre Company begins its fifth season with

this Victorian ghost story directed by Walter Niejadlik. \$12 (\$10 students). 8pm. Fri. & Sat. thru Dec. 18. 156 Eddy St. (btwn. Mason & Taylor). Info: 260-4161.

Cowell Theater

A Chamberdance ballet performance, featuring a cast of 18 young dancers in mixed classical and contemporary works. \$18. Today and Sat. at 8pm. Fort Mason. 441-FMTS.

Sat 4

Yerba Buena Center

The audience-participating "Dance-Along Nutcracker," performed by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. Tie on your tutu, strap on your dance belt, and get into the holiday spirit. \$25, includes gala and reception. 7pm. Also on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2 & 7pm (\$17, children & seniors \$10). 701 Mission St. Box office: 978-ARTS.

Herbst Pavilion, Ft. Mason

"Celebration of Craftswomen," the largest juried women's crafts fair in the nation. Showcasing works by 270 artisans and fine artists. Glass, wood, metal, and clay objects abound, plus paintings, sculpture and photography. Live music, gourmet foods, silent auction, herbalists, massage, palm reading, and astrology exhibits. A benefit for the SF Women's Building. \$6 (\$5 seniors; under 12 free); two-day pass \$10. 10am-6pm today & Sun. Info: 383-3470.

SF Camerawork

Annual benefit auction of fine photographic prints. Photography specialist and auctioneer Dale Stull will handle the bidding on works by the likes of Lee Friedlander, William Wegman, Edward Weston, Marion Post-Wolcott and more. Admission to the auction is by obtaining catalog for \$12. 1pm. Preview 11am-1pm (special preview reception also on Dec. 1, 5-9pm). 115 Natoma St. (btwn. New Montgomery & 2nd sts.). Info: 764-1001.

Robert Koch Gallery

Dual art openings for a group show, "Domestic Artifacts," with Ken Botto, Dale Kistemaker and Bill Owens, and a solo show, "Mapping the Body," by Mary Daniel Hobson. Owens will sign his book *New and Improved Suburbia*. 3-6pm. 49 Geary St. 421-0122.

Concourse Exhibition Center

"Deco the Halls," a twice-yearly event that brings together more than 200 Art Deco dealers from across the United States. \$8. 10am-6pm (vintage fashion show at 2pm). Also Sun., Dec. 5, 11am-5pm. 8th & Brannan sts. Info: 599-DECO.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus' "Holiday Concerts," directed by Joseph Jennings. An evening of sacred and secular, traditional and new holiday music. \$15. 8pm. (Also Sun. at 3pm.) 3281 16th St. (at Dolores). Info: 668-GGMC.

il Teatro 450

Mark Routhier's *They Shall Inherit*, a dark Christmas comedy in two acts. An apocalyptic affair set under Manhattan's Williamsburg Bridge on Christmas Eve, directed by Robert D. Rothrock. \$15-18 (\$12 students, seniors). Dec. 4-30. Thu. & Fri. 8pm, Sat. 8:30pm, Sun. 7pm. No show Dec. 24 & 25. 449 Powell St., third floor, off Union Sq. Info: 433-1172.

Club Universe

Holiday gala for Pediatric AIDS Toy Drive. Hors d'oeuvres by Harvey's on Castro. Bar hosted by Golden Brands, Grenier Liquors, and Club Townsend. Featuring Warner Bros. newest dance diva, Terry Dexter, comedienne Andre the Wonderwoman, and music by DJ Jamie J. Bring new, unwrapped toy for kids up to age 16. 100% of proceeds benefit UCSF Pediatric AIDS Unit. \$25. 8-9:30pm. 177 Townsend St. Event line: 985-5241.

Sun 5

934 Brannan

"Naughty Santas," San Francisco's most diverse crafts fair/Christmas party, to benefit the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. With live burlesque, strip show, Tommy Guerrero & Gad-

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Tom Tom Club Revolution performers Phatima, Greg Taylor, Arturo Galster, Jean Spinosa, Nikki Star, and Juanita MORE!

Tom Tom's 'Revolution'

The last time a group of the city's hippest queer scenesters pulled together a tribute to Tom Ammiano, back in July '98, they helped propel their favorite politician to the presidency of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Now the scenesters are back, hoping to give Ammiano a much-needed push into the mayor's office.

This year's "Tom Tom Club Revolution," a benefit for Ammiano's mayoral campaign, will reprise that earlier effort by queer performers to elect one of their own to high office. Yet the effort this time around has been necessarily redoubled, bringing more talent to a larger venue — SoMa's Transmission Theater, most recently home to the wildly successful transgender rockin' romp *Cyberotica*.

The event, produced by The Steve Lady, Greg Taylor, John Voldal, and Ivana, brings together a bevy of stellar talent from many genres, from lounge singers to head-banging rock 'n' rollers. If the show comes off without major hitches, and especially if it accomplishes its goal of replacing Willie Brown with someone more attuned to the struggles of working class renters, it may well be remembered as one of those historic occasions in San Francisco when a noble cause united performers who otherwise would have been pulling out each other's hair and jabbing one another in the back.

On the bill are the well-honed stage presences of singers, chanteuses, drag divas, rock musicians, fashion mavens, comedians, fire spinners, and, of course, "surprise" guests. Attendees will be treated to entertainment by Connie Champagne, Veronica Klaus, the Kinsey Sicks, Juanita Morel, Leigh Crow, Arturo Galster, Marga Gomez, Charming Hostess, Ultra Gypsy, Portia 666, Nikki Starr, Lady Sergio, Pippi Lovestocking (yes, Pippi, we do love you, so stop yer bellyachin'), Kennedy and many other fine, flaming acts.

And why would all these talents put out for Ammiano? As co-host Taylor explains in the official Tom Tom Club press release: "Ammiano isn't a cog in machine politics, a rubber stamp available to special interests and backroom dealers. We believe in Tom's ability to make his own decisions based on what is best for the future of San Francisco as a city and as a culture." ▶

The Tom Tom Club's Revolution, benefiting Tom Ammiano for Mayor, will gather at the Transmission Theater/Paradise Lounge, 314 11th St. (at Folsom) on Sunday, December 5. Doors open 7pm. \$25-\$250 donation at door. Info: 503-1530.

A troupe of 18 Chamberdancers bare their artistry at Cowell Theater. See Friday.



Weiland Watts

get in Jet Black Crayon, Fire Eaters, Popcorn Anti-Theater, a fashion show with Bryne Cortez and more. \$7-\$20 sliding scale. 3pm-midnight. 934 Brannan (btwn. 8th and 9th sts.). Info: 695-9100.

The Plush Room

"Teddy Care!" an entertainment and teddy-bear drive to benefit Shanti and children hospitalized at San Francisco General Hospital during the holidays. Hosted by singer Willis Moore, with Tom Ammiano, Wesla Whitfield & Mike Greensill, Meg Mackay & Billy Philadelphia. \$10, plus a new teddy bear. 7:30pm. 940 Sutter St. Reservations: 885-2800.

Cowell Theatre

Forum: "The San Francisco Mime Troupe and the Counter Culture: A Day of Assessment and Analysis," organized by Troupe founder R.G. Davis to celebrate the group's 40th anniversary. It unfolds in three parts. 10am-10pm. Free. Fort Mason Center. Info: 285-1717.

Mon 6

Gershwin Theater, USF

"Just in Time for the Holidays," the 1999 Holiday Cabaret benefiting children's AIDS charities. Val Diamond, Jill Eikenberry, Joely Fisher and other singing sensations clear their pipes for this worthwhile event. Angel seating \$75, orchestra \$50, balcony \$25, post-performance reception with cast \$25 additional. 8pm. 2350 Turk (near Masonic). Tickets: 273-1620.

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

SF Mime Troupe Gala Flashback Show, the 40th anniversary celebration, featuring an all-star cast performing highlights from various Mime Troupe gigs from the past four decades. \$20 general admission, \$50 reserved seating, \$100 reserved seating plus pre-show reception and passes to private events on Dec. 3 & 4. \$20 and \$50 tickets available at City Lights and Modern Times bookstores; for \$100 tickets, call 285-1717. 8pm. Bay & Lyon sts.

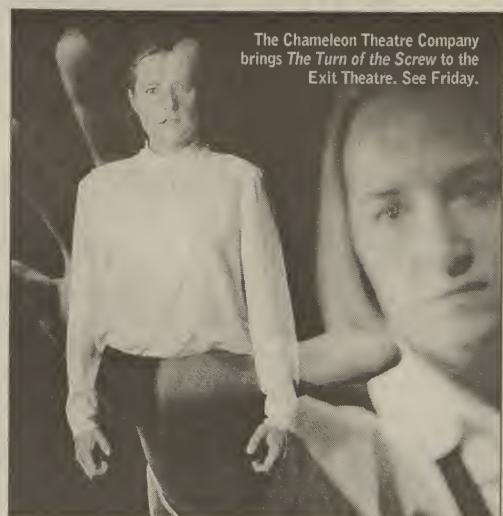
Tue 7

Josie's

Q Action presents "Spirit in the Flesh," an evening of queer video and talk for gay/bi guys 25 and under and their friends. Free. 6:30pm social time; 7-9pm program. 3583 16th St.

Jon Sims Center

David Mills presents a free solo performance workshop in conjunction with his new solo performance piece, *What I Want*, at Intersection for the



The Chameleon Theatre Company brings *The Turn of the Screw* to the Exit Theatre. See Friday.

Arts Space Limited. 7:30-10:30pm. 1519 Mission St. Reservations: 554-0402.

Yerba Buena Center

"Dance/Screen: A Series of Innovative Dance from Around the World," SF Performances screens Anthony Atala's "Dust," Christopher Barge's "Can't Stop Now." \$6. 7pm. 701 Mission (at 3rd St.). 978-ARTS.

University of San Francisco

Film critic Edward Gethmann speaks about the boom in LGBT films, including Gods and Monsters, Beautiful Thing, Lilies and more. Free. 4:30-6pm. Education Bldg., Rm. 110, 2350 Turk St.

Wed 8

Stop AIDS Project

"Holi-daze," an evening of gay and bi men talking about queer holiday traditions. Share stories of how to turn potentially lonely and sad time into a true time of celebration. 7-9pm. 2128 15th St. (at Market). Sign up with Mike at 575-0155.

Josie's

Artfull Circle Theatre presents "White Trash Compactor: A Cul-de-Sac Christmas," created by Richard Winchester, written by Mark Sargent and featuring the soulful drag stylings of Trauma Flintstone, Mark Sargent, Jason Scott and Roderick McFarland. \$15. 8pm. Tue.-Sat., Dec. 8-30. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 16th St. & Market. 861-7933.

Photographer Bill Bowers' men hang on the walls of A Different Light Bookstore (489 Castro St.) through Dec. 31.



Yerba Buena Center

Frameline's Queer Documentary Series screens *Last Call at Maud's*, directed by Paris Poirier, about the longest-running lesbian bar in the U.S. Fascinating interviews and hundreds of rare visuals. \$7 (\$6 students/seniors). Info: 978-ARTS.

Magic Theatre

Word for Word presents its Winter Festival, a program consisting of Dino Buzzati's *The Falling Girl* and Edna Ferber's *The Kitchen Side of the Door*, two fables of urban women reflecting on their rapidly shifting identities. \$21, students and seniors \$18, "pay what you can" on Wednesdays. 8:30pm Wed.-Sat., 3pm Sun. Dec. 8-30. Northside, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center. Info: 437-6775.

Thu 9

Main Public Library

"The Illusion of Conformity: Sleight-of-Hand Activism in the 1950s and 1960s," an exhibit highlighting the papers of Donald Lucas, a longtime gay activist in the Tenderloin and an early leader of the Mattachine Society. Free and ongoing. James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Main Public Library. Larkin & Grove. 557-4400.

A Different Light

Andrew X. Pham reads from *Catfish and Madola: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam*. Appearing with Pham will be his gay brother, who is part of his story about a 4,000-mile solo bicycling trek around the Pacific Rim. Free. 7:30pm.

New Langton Arts

"Future Shock," the 15th Annual Auction to benefit this flourishing alternative art space. Works by Ross Bleckner, Jenny Holzer, Michael Light, Jessica Snow and others go on the block. \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. 8-11pm. Admission to the Shock Rave Preview Party (6-8pm) is \$125 in advance, \$150 at the door. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn. 8th & 9th sts.). Info: 626-5416.

San Francisco Women Artists

"Pleasures and Treasures," a juried group exhibition of small format artwork by the members of San Francisco Women Artists. Free. Reception 5:30-7:30pm. 370 Hayes St. Info: 550-SFWA.

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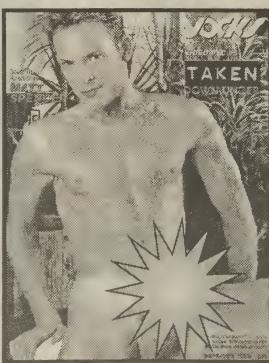
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Joshua Bell

by Philip Campbell

Michael Tilson Thomas returns to the podium at Davies Hall this week, after a brief hiatus, for an interesting program that includes some saxophone works featuring soloist John Harle. MTT always brings added electricity to his concerts, but things have been pretty lively and pleasantly surprising, even in his absence.

Violinist Joshua Bell is a big star, too, and his recent appearances showed him to be maturing well in what is still the first part of his career. At 32, he is no longer chicken, but he still cuts a youthful figure on stage and bears more than a passing resemblance to a taller Tom Cruise. His choice of the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3 was a welcome departure from the usual diet of blockbusters like the Beethoven,

Brahms or Tchaikovsky concertos.

Bell is also a champion of contemporary composers, like John Corigliano, whose *Red Violin Chaconne*, from the movie of the same name, he premiered here

two years ago. British composer Nicholas Maw, a thrilling talent underrated in America, has written a concerto especially for him that I long to hear, but I suspect Symphony subscribers would have still opted for the Saint-Saëns, had it come to a vote.

In spite of the program notes that kept pushing the operatic tendencies and Italianate nature of the work, I continue to find it particularly and attractively French. The lovely song of the second movement may be a barcarolle fashioned after a Venetian gondolier's air, but it reeks (well, it perfumes) with a poignant Gallic charm. The soloist played it beautifully, even sacrificing audibility for the sake of delicacy at times.

Bell's recognized fullness of tone was on ample display in the vigorous first movement, and he really cut loose for the Finale. His fine technique and pleasing stage presence elicited a strong ovation and three calls (which included more than a few patrons who rose from their seats, as there are always more than a few who do).

Still, there was no encore, unlike the generous Kennedy, who tore the house down last month with his own brand of star quality and special knack for crossover appeal.

Guest conductor Paavo Berglund more than balanced the bill with a powerful Schubert Symphony in C major, *The Great*, but I found myself wondering why he didn't take the opportunity to regale us with one of his famous Sibelius interpretations. He has recorded the entire cycle of symphonies three times and won a Grammy for the world premiere recording of that composer's *Kullervo*. Still, it didn't matter so very much, as the Schubert was so well done.

Lithe Laureate

The week before, Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt wrapped up his guesting fortnight with a wonderful Nielsen Symphony No. 4, *The Inextinguishable*, and some very respectable Mozart, the Symphony No. 36, *Linz*.

If I sound surprised by his Mozart, I was, for many previous

page 43 ►

Dance-Along

◀ Arts cover

pression of Judy Garland by Kate Botello of ZD-TV.

Versatile band

"One of the better parts of putting this show together is showing off all the different musical textures a concert band can make," Louie said. "It's frustrating to me that we're known almost solely as a marching band, when we also perform symphonic and pops concerts year round."

"The best part is coming up with the shtick, making the audience laugh," Louie said. "The jokes are so corny, but people still laugh and throw gags into their own dancing. We're talking about having fun, but not at somebody else's expense. There've been times when the Band was laughing so hard at the audience that they've forgotten to play."

Just as the show's musical styles are widely varied, the feature dance numbers, interspersed among the audience dance-alongs, have markedly different flavors. Carolyn Carvalaj, whom many may remember as the snake dancer from last year's *Dance-*

Along, choreographed all the large feature numbers using the dance skills and stuntsman of Cheer San Francisco. *Swan Lake* has the team dressed as deeply emotional Hershey's Kisses, rolling around on executive chairs. *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* has the animated brooms updated to modern cleaning products that are choreographed in Busby Berkeley-style formations. Caravalaj choreographed *Night on Bald Mountain* as an acrobatic stunt battle between opposing evil queens played by Flintstone and Caravalaj. A special Japanese-style puppet dance will also be performed by composer/choreographer Dudley Brooks. ▼

Opening night gala, Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m., features City Swing with Gail Wilson for a holiday swing dance and reception. Regular performances of *Dance-Along Nutcracker* are Sunday, December 5 at 2 and 7 p.m. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Tickets, call (415) 978-ARTS. Information, call (415) 554-0402.

Heidi Beeler plays trumpet with the SF L/G Freedom Band.

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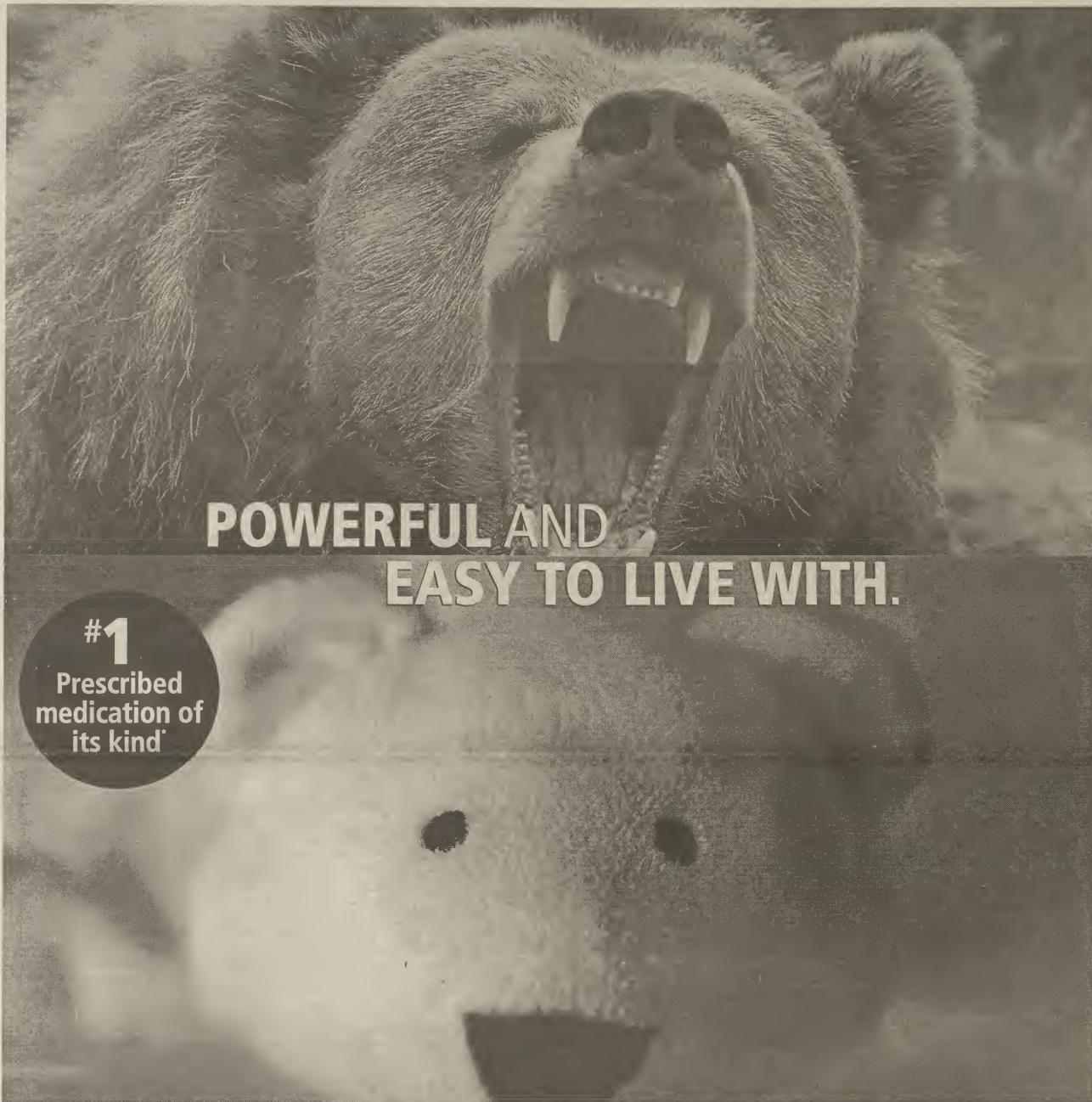
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Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
 - Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
 - Quindine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
 - Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
 - This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, nausea, headache, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons*	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb		
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3 3/4

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle. * 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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THEATRE

Shallow youth

42nd Street Moon's 'Babes in Arms'

by Richard Dodds

A collective sigh emerged from the audience as "Where or When" took its place in the overture. But a few moments later, when this ruefully beautiful ballad was sung by the romantic leads of *Babes in Arms*, its impact was considerably diminished. It's a problem that repeats itself throughout Rodgers and Hart's 1937 musical.

In the case of "Where or When," it is sung by a pair of teenagers whom we have just met. But it's a song that needs to be invested with the emotions of characters who have lived and loved and lost. "My Funny Valentine" and "The Lady Is a Tramp" also pale in a babe's arms, rendering one of Broadway's greatest scores oddly ineffectual in its original context.

Long out of circulation, the original script (with a few tweaks for contemporary sensibilities) was dusted off for an acclaimed revival by New York's Encores! series of staged concerts of "lost" musicals. Our own version, 42nd Street Moon, is following suit, but the results don't mirror the earlier ecstatic reactions.

Earlier this season, with musicals like *Let's Face It and Sitting Pretty*, 42nd Street Moon demonstrated that even the notoriously slight books of vintage musical comedies can have wit and earned humor. But what Rodgers and Hart themselves concocted to string together their fabulous songs is breathtakingly inane. A cast of uncanny effervescence and talent may be needed to sell this foolishness.

But *Babes in Arms* is inherently difficult to cast, calling for performers young enough to pass for minors but experienced enough to sell the material. In 42nd Street Moon's staged concert, even with liberties taken in the case of several of the principals' ages, the results can range from slightly more than adequate to considerably less

than that.

The musical is the progenitor for the classic let's-put-on-a-show formula that Hollywood would quickly turn into a cliché. But in the Broadway version, the kids never do get to put on their show, at least not before the final curtain, as a subplot about a French aviator that is actually irritating in its stupidity is allowed to take over. You can fault MGM for retaining only two of the original songs for its Mickey Rooney-Judy

Garland vehicle, but the studio performed a miracle of resuscitation on the script.

Director Greg MacKellan keeps it all moving at a reasonable clip, but the evening seems longer than its actual clock time. Choreography (in this case by Jayne Zaban) has become an increasingly important component of 42nd Street Moon productions, but a superfluous "dream ballet" that can only be suggested here adds nothing but running time.

With its familiar title and its classic songs, *Babes in Arms* would seem one of the most accessible of the neglected musicals in which 42nd Street Moon specializes. The revelation here is how empty those songs are when coming from the mouths of babes. ▼

Babes in Arms will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Jan. 2. Tickets are \$20-\$22. Call 861-8972.



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SF Symphony

◀ page 40

years of Blomstedt's rather lumpy approach hadn't prepared me for this lithe and bouncy rendition. The Bach Orchestral Suite No. 3, which opened the program, was more like what I was expecting, ponderous and somewhat disjointed.

Blomstedt is, nevertheless, a conductor of many strengths, well-deserving of his high regard on the international scene, for he really comes to life with certain composers. One of them is Carl Nielsen. All six of the symphonies have been recorded for Decca with the San Francisco Symphony, and they remain at the top of the catalogue, rivaled only by Bernstein's legendary Third (*Sinfonia espansiva*) with the Royal Danish Orchestra.

Fond memories of Herbert Blomstedt's finest performances here rushed back as the torrent of Nielsen's inspiration flooded the hall. Amazing that some listeners still have difficulties with this glorious music, as Blomstedt is such a magnificent advocate. His title of Conductor Laureate assures us of future visits, and we can hope he will return with more of his signature Bruckner and Nielsen. ▼

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Mister Marcus

Meet the Toronto Leatherman 2000 winners (L to R): 1st runner-up Luc Durocher, title winner Estevan DeCastro, and 2nd runner-up Robert Taylor. They competed in Toronto on Saturday, Nov. 27, 1999.

Triumph in Toronto

by Mister Marcus

In the fifth edition of the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition, produced by a brand new board of directors, a whole lot of volunteers helped to present a slam-bang leather contest, with over 1,200 leather people in attendance all last weekend, November 25-28, in the very beautiful city of Toronto, Canada.

It was a spectacular show with many of the "usual suspects" from the U.S. and Canada leather communities there. They gave their loud approval as the strikingly handsome Estevan DeCastro prevailed over five other contestants to win the right to wear the WWF-style title-belt as Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2000.



Bazaar

In my many years of judging contests, this event was one of the most butch elegant among many high quality productions. It all began with a "roast" of outgoing MLT 1999 Chris Holmgren on Thursday night, a "meet & greet" on Friday after the pre-judging interviews, and on Saturday evening came the contest itself.

Wedged in between all this were brunches, demonstrations by the esteemed Michael Horowitz of New York, and a victory brunch at the fabled Tool Box on Sunday. It all culminated with what many said was one of the best contests ever.

I had a great experience judging with Chris Holmgren, Michael Horowitz, Dean Ross, Ian Turner, Dennis O'Connor and Raymond Bakey. The contestants Rudd Ansley, Estevan DeCastro,

Luc Durocher, Robert Taylor, Rick Tchorzewski and Jason Walker were high-caliber, good-looking, amiable and well prepared. What really pleased the crowd was that the contestants were obliged to give their 90-second speeches in jock attire.

The opening number was spectacular, with the divine voices of lyric-coloratura soprano Denise Williams along with Marty Rotman and Richard Lafond, backed up by the Toronto Men's Chorus and dancers performing von Schiller's "Ode to Joy." The dancing bodies didn't quit!

Int'l. Mr. Leather Bruce Chopnik shared the emcee duties with local drag favorite Chris Edwards, and they kept the show going with appropriate quips. Later in the program, the hilarious Maggie Cassella had the crowd rolling in the aisles with her unique brand of humor.

This particular contest re-
next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, December 2

Big Basket Contest at The Edge. The Old Bag will cruise while Danny Williams emcees this final contest of the year at the Edge.

Tonight and tomorrow night, Donna Sachet's Songs of the Season show at the Oak Street Ballroom, with a ton of talent. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door.

Friday, December 3

GSGRA-Bay Area Snowflakes & Spurs Holiday Ball at 306 Baden St. in South San Francisco to benefit Project Open Hand, including DJ music, 50/50 raffle, and country dancing. Only \$10 (\$7 with donation of non-perishable foods). Call 552-5642.

Boot maven Larry Kenney of www.boots.com hosts a dinner by Mark I. Chester, with a \$10-\$20 sliding scale donation for Ammiano campaign. Call 621-6294.

Weekend, December 4-6

Big 10th anniversary doings at the Full Moon Saloon in Orlando, home of many a bear. Owner Bob Graves adds a Full Moon Saloon to his list of possessions in Tampa, Florida, formerly the Tampa Eagle.

Saturday, December 4

Bare Chest Calendar men will sell and sign the 2000 calendar at the Bolt in Sacramento tonight. They're selling like hot cakes!

Omar Moseley and Don Ho have their annual Ho Ho Ho benefit Xmas party tonight. Did you get an invitation?

Sunday, December 5

Holiday Leather Brunch at Harvey's, 1130-1430,

with champagne, entertainment, and community awards. \$20 advance from Harvey's, or \$25 at the door.

Mr. SF Leather Werner's Leather Archives & Museum benefit at Daddy's, 1500-1800, and hopefully all the bay area leather title holders on hand.

Happy birthday to Doug Harrison, former BC Calendar man.

Tuesday, December 7

Stop AIDS Project's "LeatherFuck" workshop at 1900, at 1268 Folsom. It's free, educational, and a "unique entrance into the world of leather/SM". It lasts three hours. Mentors are invited to attend and contribute expertise.

Wednesday, December 8

The Ring presents "Bondage Night: Binding Two People Together" at Club Eros. For bisexual and gay men. 1900-2100, free. Do it!

Ernestine moves to Palm Springs, but not before having a \$7 beer/soda bust with lots of shenanigans, plus Mr. Palm Springs Leather Chris Chaput in person.

Friday, December 10

Silence Knight - a benefit for that campaign initiative by BJ Cavnor and Eric Keith at the Powerhouse. \$3 donation, raffles, porn stars, videos.

Saturday, December 11

Santa Slave Auction by ACLC at the Turf Club in Hayward, with lots of leather people bottoming for charity. It's a benefit for ICF and Women's Cancer Resource Center.

Pegasus MOC head to the Int'l. Motorcycle Show in San Mateo, leaving at 0900 from the Castro Theatre. Bring \$\$ for admission, tolls, gas, food.

Down Mexico way

by Sweet Lips

By the time you read this, your auntie Sweet Lips will be ensconced in beautiful Puerto Vallarta, having a libation or two (or three) with Police Commissioner Wayne Friday. We will be celebrating both of our birthdays — of course, Our Man Friday is a little bit younger. But believe you me, neither one of us is exactly a spring chicken.

Emperor Bobby Pace will be having a fundraiser, to buy Xmas trees for Continuum, on Saturday, December 11 from 2 p.m. on, at Linda's Phone Booth, 1398 South Van Ness Avenue. Czarina Day Camp Gladys Bumps is one of the co-hostesses. Remember, to care is to share.

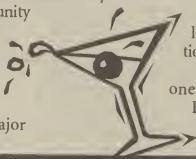
The handsome Danny Dibble is

still on the plank at the Cinch Saloon, and you can find Mark Wisdom at Kimo's Sat.-Tues., and at Reflections Wed. & Thurs. night shifts.

The Grand Opening of the Club Rendez-Vous was a smashing success and raised over a thousand dollars for the Community Center Project!

Everyone who is anyone was there, including those ink-stained wretches of the press, major celebs, and city dignitaries.

Mayor Willie Brown proclaimed November 17 Club Rendez-Vous Day, and Mark Leno presented owner David C. Kapp and his partner of 12 years, L. James Beales, a certificate of honor for their work in the community. Rahn



Cocktail Hour

Fudge, host of a gay television program on QTV, was on hand to report on the festivities, talking to the friendly staff and the vivacious crowd, and choosing for his depth interview none other than

Yours Truly. Watch for my close-up as I tackle some tough questions from Fudge.

Thank you to everyone who made my 77th Birthday Bash at the Rendez-Vous so much fun. Chef Dennis "Prosciutto 'n' Promises" Tyler: your canapés were fabulous. Thanks, Steve Suss of the Embers/Avenue in Portland, for being here for every birthday party since my 50th at the old P.S. Restaurant. Golly, how time flies! ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

quired the contestants to choose a Mr. Leather Fellowship from amongst themselves. His duties include promoting the title and hopefully recruiting next year's contestants, as well as his own fundraising. Outgoing Robin Empson was deemed a dynamic person to hold the title last year. When all the speeches, judging categories, introductions of the board of directors, and Chris Holmgren's stepping aside speech, the moment of truth arrived.

Rick Tchorzewski was chosen from his fellow contestants as Mr. Leather Fellowship 2000. The second runner-up was Robert Taylor, the first runner-up Luc Durocher and Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2000 is Estevan DeCastro.

A loud whoop and holler and a prolonged ovation arose from the crowd at the announcement, and hundreds of flash bulbs exploded as DeCastro accepted the title belt.

Estevan will make his first major out of town appearance at the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington in January.

Toronto is a beautiful town with beautiful people and a great leather community. It was a pleasure to be there. My special thanks go to Bill MacBean, Jay Wagner, Chris Holmgren and John Burch.

First one out

Two Sundays ago (Nov. 21), the GDIs staged their annual butch brunch and their second annual Mr. GDI Leather contest at the SFPOA hall on 7th and Bryant in San Francisco. The food was great and a nice crowd was on hand to see Tony Apedale, Tom Basch (former Mr. Gay SF) and Carlos Mosca compete for the title. Judges André English, Alexis



Mr. GDI Leather 1999 Michael Floyd, left, with his successor Tom Basch, the first Mr. SF Leather 2000 contestant on the growing roster. Basch was chosen on Sunday, Nov. 21 at the GDI's Butch Brunch. He will compete for the Mr. SF Leather title on Friday, March 10, 2000.

Miranda, Alan Selby and outgoing title holder Mike Floyd managed to field the questions and get the answers from the three. When it was all said and done, Tom Basch emerged as the second man to hold this title. Tom will compete for the Mr. Leather of San Francisco 2000 title on March 10 along with what is hoped to be a banner year for contestants in 2000.

In Washington, D.C., the DC Eagle celebrated their 28th anniversary all last weekend with a stunning anniversary pin, all sorts of special events, and the Mr. DC-Eagle contest. There were five contestants, including Int'l. Mr. Boot Black Bob Erlich, Ted Heath, David Bernard and Scott with the Divine Body. When it was all over, Gary Vandeventer took the title. He was Mr. Iowa Leather 1999 but is now a resident of Virginia and will compete at Mid-Atlantic Leather in January.

In Seattle, the Seattle Men in Leather staged their eleventh annual Leather Daddy, Grand Dad, and Daddy's Boy contests at the Cuff on Saturday night. The new incumbents are: Leather Daddy Craig Kelso, Grand Dad Steve Nelson, and Daddy's Boy Rick Graven. The big crowd on hand seemed to be very pleased with these winners.



MaDaddy Weebie is Ms. Southeast Leather. She beat out three men and another woman for the right to compete at IMsL 2000 in Toronto next July.

Photo
Courtesy of GDI

Go Donna!

On a final note, tickets for the Donna Sachet Christmas Show tonight and tomorrow night at the Oak Street Ballroom are on sale at the Community Box Office for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As I mentioned, I was in Toronto, so I had to improvise and substitute Canadian Bacon (on the hoof) for turkey. Yum!

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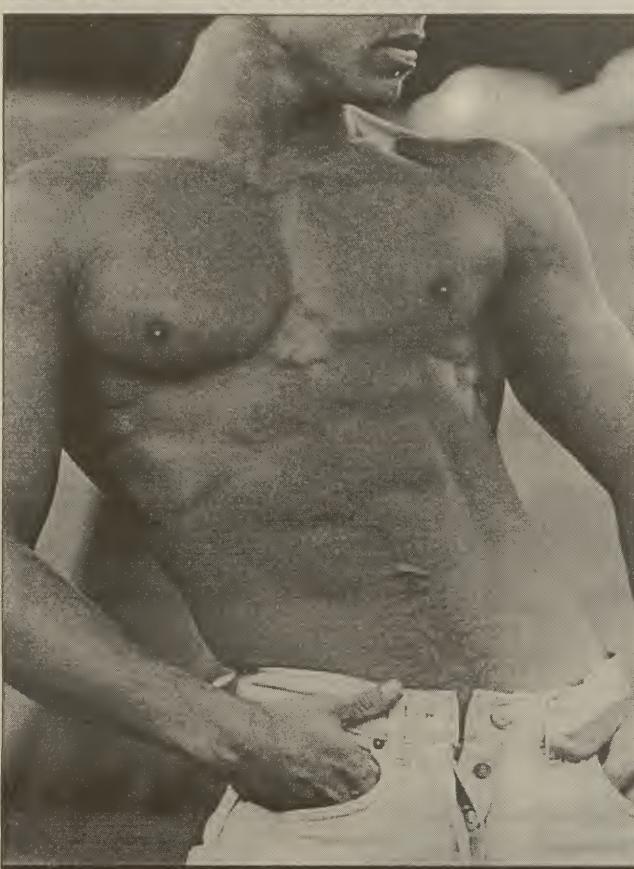
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You= dark hair boy; me= tiny, thin strip of chin hair, curly brown hair, us= passion & lots of kissing. We kissed walking out at closing time while you held me from behind= said you live across from Glide. ☎ 1003

Smile To Start My Day
Couldn't think of anything nicer. You: cute blonde, gray t-shirt, walking down Grove Street, Wed, 10/20, 8:45am. Me: Asian driving white Cherokee. Got my engine revving! How about coffee? ☎ 1004

Golds Gym Sat Evening 10/23
We rubbed knees in the sauna. You: beautiful bleached blond w/dark roots. Me: dark hair, tattoo/left arm. You wore a turtle-neck when you left? Interested? Let's meet. ☎ 1005

Castro Barber Shop Tu 10/26
You getting head shave, we haircut next seat over- exchanged glances, Date? ☎ 1104

Muni #14 11-9 Early Eve
You: shaved head- white t- fatigues. Me: tall bearded, oversized sweatshirt in ears. Thanks for the wink and smile- could there be more? ☎ 1400

SFMOMA-Cremaster Video 10-24
You explained the finger points, can we continue the discussion over dinner? I'd love to see your smile again. ☎ 1101

Gorgeous Redhead From Philly
Eros on 10/23. You flipped for me. Would be happy to return the flavor. Give a call; would like to stay in touch. ☎ 1002

You Live On 18th Street
Met at The Cafe in March. You're from New York, currently live in San Francisco on 18th Street. You said I was handsome, I was with a date. Can't stop thinking about you. ☎ 1100

Butternut Squash
CalaThus 11/4. You: handsome WM wearing suit behind my gal-pal and me. We talked about how you were gonna prepare it. I've got some tasty squash recipes to share! ☎ 1307

Philip At GG Bridge Beach 10/24
Met you a second time at the beach this year but my timing was off again. Beach season's ending. I'd love to hook up. Call me, Lyle. ☎ 1103

Montgomery Muni-Castro, Mon 11-1
4:45pm You: sitting, brown hair, goatee, sublime. Me: tall, dark blond with roommate, couldn't follow you looking back. Ouch! Dinner? ☎ 1200

Met U On Muni W/Your Dog Sun 11/7
Our meeting got cut short with your stop at Church, I'd love to meet again and do more than just smile. I'm the blonde who asked to pet your dog. ☎ 1201

PowerExchange 11/1/99 Steve Mon.
Your first time. Your kisses were deep and hot, we hit the tents. I thought we connected well. I need to see you again. Can't stop thinking of you. Curt. ☎ 1204

Vacaville Outlet Monday 11/1
You: hunky, shaved head with friend. Me: white t-shirt and goatee with brother. I should have said hello in addition to smiling. Now I want to say hello and... ☎ 1205

Big Snack And Faith The Beagle
Met you on Market St. a few months ago, asked if we were brothers, gave us your e-mail, and said we could babysit Faith. No computer, contact us. Will & Steve. ☎ 1206

Alma/Cole Valley Sun 10/24 11:30
You: walking down Alma after work-out. Me: driving up Arma in grey rodeo. Exchanged glances. How about coffee? ☎ 1300

The Watergarden Sun. Oct 29
You hot buffed Hispanic. I was the Hispanic guy who's room you walked into, #6 you made a certain request and I agreed to it, you stood there trying to side your request ☎ 1302

Eric At Buddies Sunday Nov 7
I like your great tattoo, you like mine. You where amazing. Let's do it again in bed. Call me! It will be cool. ☎ 1303

Red Dodge Ram Bay Bridge 11-10
Construction Worker? We passed and smiled about 7:30am. Let's go to meet for more. Me black Nissan went towards Oakland. ☎ 1304

Alameda, Friday Nov. 12
You gave me your newspaper from your table behind me in the Mex Restaurant. Wanna meet for dinner and eat together? Call me! Mitch ☎ 1305

Hey Ted Its Me Rick
We met Sunday 11-7 at Buddies. Let's continue. Sorry it was a bad night to leave together. Let's fix that... ☎ 1306

Saturday Night, 10/23 BB's
You 38, me 45. You offered ride home; took taxi instead. You left 10/30 to Philadelphia. Exchanged numbers & intentions; I lost your card. Damn! Please call. Tom. ☎ 1301

Someday Before Xmas Last Year
On the Market near the Cafe, you smiled at me. We turned back twice, but just looked at each other. You: big WM, around 6'3" tall. Me: Asian, 5'10" tall. Wanna talk? ☎ 1207

Gil On Halloween!
We met at the Rainbow and I had a great time, but I didn't get your number! Call me - I won't be "SCARY!" ☎ 1102

Cafe Flore Sat 11/20 Midday
Shared a smile in line for the mens room. You: blonde, white-t shirt, jeans, adorable. Me: black leather jacket, jeans, cap. Would like to meet. ☎ 1401

Looking For Randal
Sorry I missed you before the move. Lost your phone #. SFO was last contact. SSF or Daly City. Drove you to DMV in East Bay, Steamworks. ☎ 1402

Tye: 10/30 Halloween
There is a U.S.O team member hoping to meet up with you again. Next time I promise to wear pants! ☎ 1203

Ken- We Met You On Sat. Oct 30
You called us on Wed, Nov 3. We got # wrong. Please call John & Steve. ☎ 1202

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

First Time Ad
GWM, early 40s, 5'11", 205#, professional, financially secure. Seeks GWM, 25-40, HIV-, non-smoker. Recently out of LTR. Blond/blue a plus. Curt. ☎ 1204

I Have A Bear Magazine Look
GWM 45-200lbs, 5'9" HIV-hairy, husky, mustache, balding seeks guy 20 to 30 w/attractive boyish looks, for possible relationship. ☎ 1007

Friendship And Sex
Seeking both, Me: 50 BM top. You: 55-56 WM bottom. You have dinner, drinks, smoke, conversation and good sex. Please be 5'10" or less. Not thin, no beard and sensitive nips. ☎ 1008

Hairy Little Fuckbuddy Wanted
Boomer, 5'8", 135, muscled, very hairy, shaved head, goatee, average cut tool, HIV+ Want same or shorter HIV+ fuckbuddy, muscled and hairy, for frequent latex-free butt-fudging. ☎ 1009

Bear Seeking Bear In South Bay
I am 6'1", 225, brown, blue, appliances man for Gregg's T.V. + appliance in Palo Alto area. ☎ 1010

Double Your Fun
Two friends, GWM, 56.5'8", 135, pl/brown, HIV- and GWM, 53, 5'8", 185, brn/bl, HIV- each seek a separate relationship with the same loving and affectionate gay male. ☎ 1012

WLM, 43, 6'160lbs. ISO.....
Husky or heavyset men with huge bellies for lots of deep kissing, holding, oral action. Facial hair, rugged looks A+ No gay scene, drugs. Smoking, It drink ok. ☎ 1013

Handsome Hung Russian Teacher
GWM 41 youthful looking needs Russian top to teach me his language. I am HIV+ and full of life. Age not important, but quality is. Tops only. ☎ 1014

College Students
18-25 young males for honest clean safe sex and foreplay. HIV- and clean hygiene is a plus. GWM, 5'10", 220, ch50", 9"-10", and 7" round, clean, HIV- aggressive, gentle. ☎ 1105

Virgin Buns
Dancers, Porn Stars and Body-builders for safe sex and possible friendship. GWM, 48, goodlooking, aggressive, strong, ch.50", HIV- love puns and big quarter size nipples. N. fats. ☎ 1106

Are You Tall In Body & Spirit?
I love tall, lean or athletic guys with a big, compassionate heart. 28-35. I'm 30, 5'8", athletic, medium build, pr;br face, spiritual, intellectual, artistic, adventuresome, great kissers, sexy, monogamous. ☎ 1107

Friendship Wanted
GWM, 39, 5'11", 175, looking for new friends, 35-45 professional, blue eyes, sincere, into outdoors, cooking, cultural events. ☎ 1108

Quiet Type
Quiet ISO spirited ISO quiet. Pos, mid-life, trim, varied interests. ☎ 1213

Asian ISO Black
GWM around 40s seeks Black male friend, possibly LTR, no overweight, please be sincere only. N/S, N/D, not pets. ☎ 1109

Incurable Romantic
Do you enjoy cuddling before the fire? GWM 66, 5'10", 140#, wavy hair; ISO Latin/African man for intimacy and social outings. Hayward area. ☎ 1311

Big Hearted Country Guy Seeks Spiritual Masculine Guy
To share mountain property 2 hrs. north of S.F. Me: 45, average looks, medium build. Your honest, young at heart, adventurous, open to LTR? ☎ 1312

Healthy HIV+ Cool Latin Guy
I'm 35ys, 5'8", 158lb, brn skin, good body, ISO boyfriend. Into arts, music, sports, sex, mm/m/u. Thin (nice butt) versatile +. No drugs, lite drink ok. Size not important. Latin, White or Italian. Call me. ☎ 1313

GWJM Manbody Boyface 100% Real Adventuresome, affectionate, 6'-1", 175#, crewcut, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own apartment, swimmer, hiker, cook, pisces, 33, weekend at romantic B & B or "Thelma And Louise" roundtrip. ☎ 1314

Single In The City Sucks

But not as good as it is! Horny top

30-50 beaded by 49yo bottom eager

to leave single hood, kind, honest,

loving/cabin looking to enjoy together. ☎ 1410

Here I Am!
East Bay White male, hung, versatile, 5'8", 158.50s, HIV-, ISO Blacks, Asians, White, HIV-, age/looks not important but please no BS. Down-to-earth and sincere. ☎ 1110

Wanted Mature Man
GWM seeking casual relationship with a clean, trim matured man, late 50s to 60s who enjoys receiving oral service. If interested, call me! Your place, no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 1208

Asian And Black Tops
This GWM 6' 165lbs. would like you to lay down while I suck you deep. When ready- can you fuck me. What can give me. Your sex object. ☎ 1209

Chubby Guy Mst Glasses HIV- 48
Attractive ISO affectionate, stable, committed partner. Be considerate, easy going, sexually versatile, am moderately hairy. Serious only. No drugs. ☎ 1210

Seeking Smooth Cub Trainee
WM bear 48, 5'8", 230lb HIV- looking for loyal cub 25-40, HIV- for regular service. Esp like smooth, quick cummers, ex-Marines, Latins. ☎ 1211

Spank Me
Cute little frat boy 22, blonde hair with a nice smooth chest, gym-body, needs over the knee action from dominant big brother 18-35 only please. Chinatown. ☎ 1212

Snuggle Buddy Wanted
GWM, 6', 165lbs, half-Italian/half-German HIV+, wants to physically relate with GWM of similar build like myself. Love cuddling in front of television. ☎ 1011

GWM-Pure Heart, Dirty Mind
Desires erotically charged romantic entanglement with adorable charmer. Smart, handsome, talented, hairy-chested HIV+ top, 35, 6'1", 165; juggling healthy/borderline instinct with oversexed imagination. Wanna shatter some rules? ☎ 1214

Looking For A Good Man
Me: 32, 5'11" 180lbs. Gym toned, HIV+ and healthy, ready to have fun again. You: mature, responsible and good top. ☎ 1215

Asian Top Wanted
Heavyset WM bottom, 38, 6'3" 280lbs looking for Asian Pacific Islander top for possible LTR. Like: reading, classic movies, hand holding. Be romantic and sincere. ☎ 1216

More Treat Than Trick
Cute blonde GWM (6'1" 175#, boyish) seeks romance with handsome thirtysomething guy. Interest and attitudes negotiable. (though books, classical music, the outdoors). ☎ 1217

Good Guy Blues
This cute, warm hearted, nice guy, GWM, mid 30's, into Christmas, carpenters, and coffee, seeks a nice guy to love, laugh, play and will invite for milk and cookies. ☎ 1218

Sonoma County
GWM 6'1", 180# easygoing, versatile, playful & fun. Looking for 35-45 ski buddy & more with many interests N/S, N/D, give a call. ☎ 1308

ISO Outdoors Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 145, 5'7", great shape, negative, sense of humor, 40s; you are similar, very macho, neg, atrac, great shape, stable, kind; for friends, dating. ☎ 1309

Slim Edikins Hm Retired Guy
Mustache, jeans, 5'11", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV- sees similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! ☎ 1310

Incurable Romantic
Do you enjoy cuddling before the fire? GWM 66, 5'10", 140#, wavy hair; ISO Latin/African man for intimacy and social outings. Hayward area. ☎ 1311

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MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

DANCE

Nutcracker

◀ Arts cover

tions or just plain break the mold. I've included some alternatives in the following list. And given that the normally insane traffic will be further intensified by frenetic shoppers, I recommend seeing a show closer to home so you can avoid gridlock and not worry that you won't get there before the

curtain goes up.

For me, the music is just as important as the dancing, and I am listing first those performances of *The Nutcracker* accompanied by live orchestras:

San Francisco Ballet at the War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave. Dec. 14-31 (no performance on Christmas Day). For tickets, \$9-\$120, call 865-2000, also on-line at www.sfballer.org, or (510) 762-BASS.

Oakland Ballet at the Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Dec. 10-12, 17-19, 21-24. For tickets, \$11-\$39, call (510) 762-BASS. Worth going to see the gorgeous Art Deco theater as well.

San Jose Cleveland Ballet at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd., San Jose. Dec. 2-5 and 7-12. Tickets, \$18-\$60, at (408) 288-2800, (800) 678-5440, or online at www.sanjoseclevelandballet.org.

The Hard Nut, Mark Morris' wacky version of *Nutcracker* performed by his company at Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley. Dec. 11-12, 15-19. Tickets, \$24-\$48, by calling (510) 642-9988 or by e-mail at ticks@calperfs.berkeley.edu.

Dance-Along Nutcracker at the Forum at Center for the Arts Yerba Buena Gardens, SF. This is really the most fun of all, as you can dance your heart out to music played by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., special gala tickets \$25, and December 5 at 287 p.m., \$17 adult, \$10 kids and seniors. Tickets from the YBC Box Office 978-ARTS. Information: 554-0402.

Live on tape

The next group of performances have taped music, but the

Jenna Rita McClintock and Ben Barnhart in Oakland Ballet's *Nutcracker*

Nancy Solt

principal roles are danced by professionals who have worked with major ballet companies, and all the dancers have a lot of fun as well.

Berkeley City Ballet at The Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 Allston Way. Dec. 11-12 at 2 p.m. Adults \$17, kids and seniors

\$13. Tickets available at (510) 841-8921. Performances at the Jackson Theater at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd. in Fremont Dec. 18-19 at 2 & 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 adult, \$15 seniors and kids under 12, at (510) 659-6031.

Marin Ballet at the Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Marin Center, San Rafael. Dec. 11-12 at 1&4:30 p.m. Adults \$17-\$22, kids and seniors \$10.50-\$14.50. Tickets through Marin Center Box Office (415) 472-3500 or (510) 762-BASS.

Peninsula Ballet Theater at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 North Delaware St., San Mateo. Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. and December 12, 18-19 at 2 p.m. Adults \$20-\$30, seniors \$16-\$26, kids \$12-\$22. Tickets at (650) 340-9448.

Some exciting alternatives to *Nutcracker* include:

The Velveteen Rabbit performed by ODC/San Francisco at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St., SF. Dec. 4 at 1&4 p.m., Dec. 5 at 2 p.m., and Dec. 11 at 1&4 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$32. Tickets through the Yerba Buena Box Office (415) 978-2787 or on-line at www.ticketweb.com.

The Christmas Ballet danced by Smuin Ballets/SF at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. Dec. 8-30. Tickets \$30-\$40 through YBC Box Office (415) 978-2787.

Sophie and the Enchanted Toy Shop performed by the Marin Dance Theater at the Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Marin Center, San Rafael. Sat., Dec. 18 at 1&5 p.m. Adults \$20, kids and seniors \$12, through the Marin Box Office (415) 472-3500. For info: (415) 499-8891.

And if you want to see some dance that has nothing to do with Christmas, try:

2 Tangos and a Kiss by José Navarrete with live tango quartet at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., Dec. 2-4, at 8 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. Tickets \$12-\$20 through Theater Artaud box office (415) 621-7797.

Forever Tango at Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., Dec. 7 through Jan. 2, 2000 (no perf. 12/24). Tickets \$30-\$45. Box Office: (415) 433-9500 or (510) 762-BASS.

BLUE 2000, a dance/music/mixed visual media collaboration between Kathleen Hermeszof, Albert Mathias and Elaine Buckholtz. An ode to the state of the world of the heart at the end of the year, decade, century, millennium at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., Dec. 2-4 and 9-11 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15, \$12 for students and seniors at (415) 863-9834. ▼



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